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WEEKEND
MONEY
Pages 21-24

THE TIMES

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Fair trade watchdog may check out supermarkets

SIR Bryan Carsberg, soon to be director general of the Office of Fair Trading, may launch an enquiry into British supermarkets, to discover whether it is true that they charge more for food than supermarkets in other European countries.

Sir Bryan, at present director general of Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog, says in an interview with *The Times* that he has put Britain's food industry at the top of his agenda.

He will take over from Sir Gordon Borrie in June after Sir Gordon's retirement, and is determined to take an active stance rather than a purely reactive one. "One never feels that it is quite satisfactory to sit in an office and wait to see what complaints people bring in," he said.

"The Sunday Times ran a series of articles alleging that food in British supermarkets costs more

Shoppers may soon not be alone in scrutinising prices on supermarket shelves. Britain's new fair trading watchdog would like to know whether food really is dearer here than in stores in the rest of Europe. Carol Leonard reports

than in other European countries," he said. "I thought that was interesting. I wonder if it is really true, and then I wonder why that is. Yes, it is something I might look at. I think it is good to look at that kind of thing."

The trouble is, if you are just reactive, there may be some reason why people in a particular line are not bringing things to you. But you have to be careful to avoid making up your mind until you have seen the evidence, and you also have to accept that there is a cost to regulation and that if you tried to right everything wrong in this world, you would probably impose bigger costs than there

would be benefits. You have to know how to strike a balance."

News of his intention to scrutinise the industry may be bad news for Britain's main food retailers, such as Sainsbury, which, according to Verdict Research, has 17 per cent of the market, and Tesco, which has 16.3 per cent.

Neil Currie, retail analyst at CL-Laing & Crukshank, said: "If there were to be an official enquiry, it would be very damaging to sentiment as far as the stockmarket is concerned. In reality, I don't think it would have any effect, because although prices are higher here, it is for a reason. The cost of building supermarkets here, which is how the

British public wants to shop, is much more expensive than on the Continent. Land costs are much more."

Operating profit margins on food sold in British supermarkets range from 7.6 per cent at Sainsbury, 7.1 per cent at Iceland, and 6.3 per cent at Tesco, to 5.5 per cent at Kwik Save. The average profit margin on the Continent is between 1 and 2 per cent.

Small supermarket chains and independents complain about the grip on the market of "The Big Five" (Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, Safeway and Gateway). Fears have grown with the opening of supermarkets on Sundays, long the domain of the small corner shop.

According to figures published by Verdict last month, Britain's grocery market was worth £44 billion in 1991, up 10 per cent on 1990. The Big Five's share is now 62 per cent, having risen from 56

per cent in five years. The number of shops operated by the multiples has risen to 4,400, though overall numbers of food stores have fallen as independents have declined.

Last year, the multiples added, at a cost of over £2 billion, three million square feet of selling space, most of it as superstores. Verdict estimates that Britain's 733 superstores account for 32.1 per cent of grocers' floorspace.

Tony MacNeary and David Shriver, food retailing analysts at County NatWest, believe that news of an enquiry into food retailing will do severe harm to sentiment in the share sector, which may linger until any report is complete. They say that food prices in Britain reflect costs that are higher than those of many European retailers.

Mr MacNeary said: "It's not simply a question of retailers putting pressure on a food manufacturer not to supply to a cut-price

rival. Food manufacturers do not want to supply discount retailers who are going to sell their products at below cost. I think many of the retailers would welcome an enquiry that clears the air."

Sir Bryan appears confident

about his switch to the most powerful regulatory job in Britain. However, informed observers say that his regulatory effectiveness has not yet been conclusively proven, although he is noted for dogged determination.

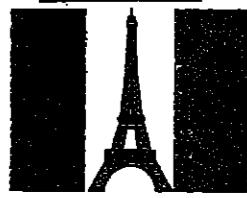
To accept the Oft job, he turned down several others, some offering twice the £95,000 salary that he will receive.

Sir Bryan sees one of his big achievements at Ofcom as the introduction of BT's customer compensation scheme. "It has had a marvellous effect on BT's performance," he said.

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Carsberg profile, page 19

TODAY IN
THE TIMES

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and stay free with
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Weekend Times

BIG SPENDER



Does the Queen
really earn £1.8
million a day? Brian
Moynihan reports
Review

FAR COUNTRY



Julian Critchley
takes the air among
the blue
remembered hills of
Shropshire
Weekend Times

TRIBE TRIAL



The Masai, warrior
kings of east Africa,
are under pressure.
Justin Cartwright
looks beyond the
tourist view
Review

World leaders press for UN army

Major sets out plan for peace

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY AND
JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

WORLD leaders yesterday called for a global security system with the United Nations at its heart and raised the prospect of a standing international army that could be sent to trouble spots to prevent fighting getting out of hand.

The UN's new role in peace making as well as peace keeping emerged from an unprecedented security council summit, described by its chairman John Major as a turning point for the world. The gathering of 15 heads of government should, he said, reaffirm the principle of collective security and send a clear signal that the UN would deal with threats to international peace.

The international agenda is shifting from crisis management to crisis prevention," Mr Major said. "The aim must be to equip the UN to lead in crisis prevention." The security council had too often had a negative role as an arena for the pursuit of conflict by verbal means,

"and too rarely the scene of effective action". It should be prepared to act before tension became conflict.

That view was echoed by President Yeltsin, making his debut on the world stage as an international statesman. He called on the post-Cold War UN to play a more active role, saying: "I believe that we need a special quick response mechanism to ensure peace and stability. Upon decision of the security council, it could be expeditiously activated in areas of crisis."

Several nations, including Norway, Sweden and Canada, already earmark national troops for the UN so that they can be deployed at short notice. France joined that list yesterday by promising to supply the UN with 1,000 men at 48 hours' notice and another thousand within a week. President Mitterrand said his pledge entailed reactivating the military staff committee, a panel of senior military officers from the security council's five permanent members that was intended by the UN charter to supervise UN military operations.

Under Article 43 of the charter, all UN members are required to make forces available to the security council "for the maintenance of international peace and security". Many experts believe that article could be used to give the UN a small rapid-deployment force, and Franz Vranitzky, the Austrian Chancellor, said yesterday that the idea should be studied.

The proposal is, however, unwelcome to Britain. In television interview yesterday, Mr Major said he saw no need for a standing UN army, which was "not necessary" to its role as a broker between nations in dispute. In his speech to the summit, he emphasised the UN's diplomatic function when he called for a review of "all the instruments at our disposal" — preventive action — to avert crises by monitoring and addressing the causes of conflict;



Presidents Yeltsin and Bush arriving for the security council summit meeting yesterday with Geza Jeszenszky, the Hungarian foreign minister. John Major, chairman of the meeting, described it as a turning point for the world and for the United Nations

and too rarely the scene of effective action". It should be prepared to act before tension became conflict.

The two chief constables are expected to announce later the setting up of a joint team of officers involved in both cases to hunt down the man before he strikes again.

The chiefs were joined at last night's meeting by Phillip Jones, the West Midlands assistant chief constable (crime), leading the investigation into Miss Slater's abduction, and Det. Supt. Bob Taylor, of West Yorkshire police, heading the enquiry into Miss Dar's murder.

Detectives involved in both

need for a standing UN army, which was "not necessary" to its role as a broker between nations in dispute. In his speech to the summit, he emphasised the UN's diplomatic function when he called for a review of "all the instruments at our disposal" — preventive action — to avert crises by monitoring and addressing the causes of conflict;

peacemaking — to restore peace by diplomatic means; peacekeeping — to reduce tensions, to consolidate and underpin efforts to restore peace." Bourros Bourros Ghali, the secretary general, has been asked to report by July with ideas on strengthening the UN's capability in these areas.

If British officials were dis-

mayed by the revival of demands for UN army, they were delighted by the final declaration from yesterday's meeting, which had been beefed up overnight to include stronger language com-

Continued on page 16, col 8

Summit reports, page 8
Leading article, page 13

England needs a downpour

BY TIM JONES

IT MAY not yet be the Sahara, but huge areas of southern and eastern England need a downpour of biblical proportions. It has been so dry that London recorded its lowest January rainfall, 0.3in, for 154 years.

As parts of southern Britain are the worst drought for more than a century, rivers that should be foaming have been reduced to brooks and some reservoirs and underground aquifers are severely depleted. Roger Hyde, general manager of the Angel region of the National Rivers Authority, said water levels are so low that we are into uncharted territory".

Hospitite banks affecting

Continued on page 16, col 4

Forecast, page 16

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Police think kidnapper is girl's killer

BY CRAIG SETON
AND PETER DAVENPORT

TWO police forces are expected to announce today that they believe the kidnapper who abducted a woman estate agent last week is the man who murdered a girl in West Yorkshire last year.

Ronald Hadfield, the West

Midlands chief constable,

and Peter Nobes, the chief

constable of West Yorkshire,

were meeting in Birmingham

last night to discuss links in

the two cases. Their meeting

took place amid growing

speculation that an under-

cover operation involving 1,000

officers launched on Wednesday to free Stephanie Slater, aged 25, and catch her abductor may have gone wrong at a critical stage and enabled a man now thought to be a killer to escape.

Miss Slater was kidnapped in Birmingham and freed on Thursday after her abductor escaped through the West

Midlands police net with a £175,000 ransom. He is now

thought to have also abduct-

ed and murdered Julie Dart,

aged 18, who disappeared in

Leeds last July, after a de-

mand for a £140,000 ran-

som. She was strangled and

her body dumped in a field

near Grantham, Lincolnshire. West Yorkshire police have been hunting her killer. The two chief constables are expected to announce later the setting up of a joint team of officers involved in both cases to hunt down the man before he strikes again.

The chief constables were joined at last night's meeting by Phillip Jones, the West Midlands assistant chief constable (crime), leading the investigation into Miss Slater's abduction, and Det. Supt. Bob Taylor, of West Yorkshire police, heading the enquiry into Miss Dart's murder.

Detectives involved in both

cases had kept in constant

touch during Miss Slater's

captivity because of the simi-

larity between the abductor's

methods and those of the

man West Yorkshire police

are seeking. Handwriting ex-

perts are thought to have

established a link by studying

the phraseology of type-written

letters written by the abduc-

tor in both cases.

The man police seek is

thought to be cunning and

resourceful and has shown

Prime minister's exit will bring more uncertainty to the people of Ireland

Haughey's fall offers little hope

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

WHILE all eyes in Dublin focused on the race to succeed Charles Haughey as Irish prime minister yesterday politicians in Northern Ireland were evaluating the likely impact of his resignation next week on the search for a settlement in Belfast.

On the face of it, Mr Haughey's departure from the centre stage of Irish politics should enhance considerably the chances for reconciliation between Unionists and nationalists.

Mr Haughey was for years demonised by hardline Unionist opinion, which smeared him as an "arch-

republican" or, as one prominent Unionist put it on Thursday, "a piece of Republican baggage which got in the way of talks."

So long as Mr Haughey remained in office Ian Paisley and his followers in the DUP could always prey on their constituents' insecurities by dredging up the old arms trial allegations and by trying to demonstrate that Mr Haughey was untrustworthy.

Although in his later years Mr Haughey came to accept fully the concept of devolution in Belfast and enthusiastically pushed ahead with the initiative of Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, it was always difficult to imagine him sitting at the negotiating table with Mr Paisley.

For these reasons either of the two most likely successors to Mr Haughey — Albert Reynolds, the former Finance Minister, and Bertie Ahern, the current Finance Minister — should have a better chance of winning the confidence of Unionists.

Both now enjoy the advantage, already evident in John Major's approach to Ireland and the perception of him by Irish politicians, of having no real track record on the prob-



Losing a job, gaining a daughter: Charles Haughey kisses Laura Daly, who married his son Ciaran, left, in Dublin yesterday



Ahern: no track record on devolution

Architects welcome institute

BY DAVID YOUNG

BRITAIN'S leading architectural body has welcomed the Institute of Architecture founded on Thursday by the Prince of Wales.

Richard McCormac, president of the Royal Institute of British Architecture, just one mile from the proposed academy in Regent's Park, due to open in October, said: "His initiative will be a further contribution to the present range and diversity of architectural education."

The welcome, magnanimous coming as it does from the heartland of a profession much criticised by the prince, was echoed in some surprising quarters. A spokesman for Lord Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman whose design for the City of London site currently occupied by the old Mappin and Webb building was dismissed as resembling a "Thirties wireless", said: "The more that architecture is discussed and the more recognition it gets from the public, the better."

Sir Denis Lasdun, whose design for the National Theatre was said by the prince to be "a clever way of building a nuclear power station", said he and other architects had been unmoved by comments from royal quarters about their work. "We've all had it and he's not the first ... Prince Albert was very interested as well."

Leading article, page 13

Major makes inheritance tax main campaign issue

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major has told Conservative party advisers that he intends to establish plans to phase out inheritance tax as a centrepiece of the general election campaign.

The prime minister is set on promoting a Tory philosophy of encouraging families to create and pass on wealth through the generations, in marked contrast to plans by Labour and the Liberal Democrats for more taxation on inherited wealth.

Tax of 40 per cent starts to bite on estates of more than £140,000, but the spread of home and share ownership has led to many more families facing tax bills on the death of elderly relatives, particularly in the South.

A senior Tory party source confirmed yesterday that Mr Major regarded the issue as a big vote-winner, marking out the sharp ideological difference between the Conservatives and other parties.

Treasury officials have worked out the economics of raising the threshold, phasing out or abolishing the tax, which brings in about £1.25 billion a year.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, appeared initially to favour a substantial raising of the £140,000 threshold, which could be included in his March 10 Budget. Since the richest families tend to protect beneficiaries through tax avoidance schemes, Mr Major is now understood to prefer the more drastic and politically attractive measure

of signalling abolition of the tax by a Tory government.

Mr Major is expected to cite the government's abolition of capital transfer tax as the first step towards freeing the transfer of wealth within families. That abolition left an anomaly, by allowing someone to pass wealth to a relative tax-free while alive, although it could incur inheritance tax upon death.

Last October, in his first Tory conference speech as prime minister, and again in his New Year message, Mr Major said that a personal priority was to allow families to pass on homes, businesses and savings without penalty.

At the conference, Mr Major spoke of the revolution since 1979 of four million

more families owning their homes and eight million more owning shares, and said this should go further in the 1990s. "I want to see wealth cascading down the generations," he said. "We do not see each generation starting out anew, with the past cut off and the future ignored."

Labour argues for "effective taxation of wealth", including lifetime gifts. In *Men the Challenge, Make the Change*, Labour proposes a recipient-based tax to encourage dispersal of wealth and forestall tax avoidance schemes. It proposes exemption for small estates and gifts and savings without penalty.

The Liberal Democrats advocate taxing gifts and inheritances as broad income.

Kinnock replies to Tory tax claims

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is the "party of the bottom 91 per cent", Neil Kinnock declared yesterday as he sought to portray his planned tax increases as no threat to potential middle class supporters.

The Labour leader set out to repair the damage done to his party by the Tory new year offensive. He highlighted independent findings that fewer than one family in ten will be worse off under plans for higher pensions and child benefit funded by income tax and national insurance rises.

Pointing to a report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, he said that nearly five out of ten families would be better off, four out of ten would not lose and only 8.7 per cent on the highest incomes would be out of pocket.

Tory election strategists will be pleased that the Labour leader has become bogged down on their territory. How-

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successor may not be able to deliver his party on the crucial question of amending the republic's constitutional claim to Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey with his well-established "green" credentials in Fianna Fail, was always going to be capable of selling a referendum on articles 2 and 3 and winning new settlement.

His successor may be unable to hold the country and

the party together on so divisive and emotive an issue.

In the SDLP there are signs of concern that the next leader of Fianna Fail will succumb to what some in the party see as a worrying tendency in some sections of Irish opinion, particularly since the election of Mary Robinson as president, to overcompensate for unionist fears.

The SDLP knew they could always rely on Mr Haughey.

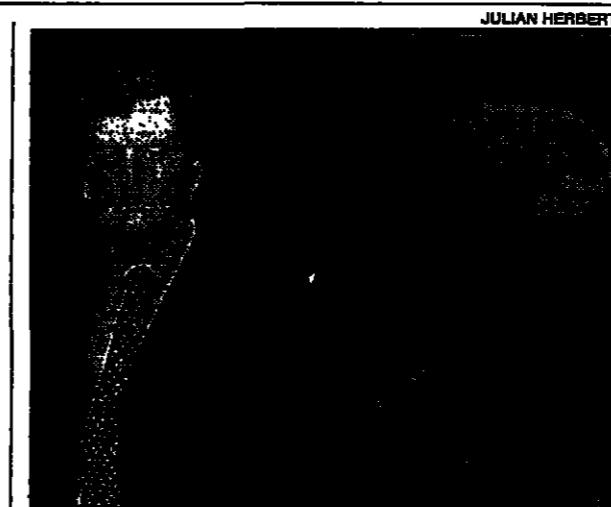
He knew the realities of life for the minority community in Northern Ireland they believed, and they trusted him not to make unilateral or unrealistic gestures in a short cut to a settlement which could not last.

Although there seems a firm commitment from the constitutional party leaders and the two governments to further talks after the general election in Britain, the Irish political scene after Mr

Haughey is more uncertain than it has been for some years.

A change of government is possible in London which could significantly alter the balance of influence between unionists and nationalists in Northern Ireland. A new secretary of state at Stormont looks likely whether the Conservatives stay in power or not, and a general election in the Irish Republic might not be far off.

JULIAN HERBERT



Paddy Ashdown, yesterday

Ashdown sets out his terms

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

PADDY Ashdown yesterday set out in the clearest terms to date his conditions for forming a coalition with either of the two main parties if the election results in a hung Parliament.

The Liberal Democrat leader said he would require the introduction of proportional representation, an agreed programme covering four years in power and ministerial posts for himself and members of his party.

However, he left open the key question of what he would do if John Major or Neil Kinnock rejected his demands and defied him to vote down a Queen's Speech brought in by a minority government.

Insiders at Westminster believe that this is the most likely outcome if neither the Tories or Labour achieve an overall majority, a strong possibility on the basis of most recent opinion polls.

Last night, sources close to Mr Ashdown made clear that their leader's remarks in a television interview with Sir Robin Day on Channel 4's *The Parliament Programme* left open the option of offering tacit support to a minority government by not opposing its initial programme.

A statement issued by Mr Ashdown's office a week ago summed up the official position: "Our priority is stable and effective government. We shall have to make a judgment according to the political circumstances of the time as to what action will best help to reach a stable government. We shall judge any Queen's Speech according to its contents and whether the measures contained are in the national interest."

Mr Ashdown knows that if he were to precipitate an immediate second general election because he had failed to get PR, his rivals would blame him for the resulting upheaval and uncertainty and the electorate might exact revenge.

Mr Ashdown said: "We will be interested in providing stability."

Director of London zoo loses his job

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Jones, the embattled director of London zoo, is to be relieved of his post by the council of the Zoological Society of London, it was announced yesterday.

His departure, after a campaign against him by a group of the society's fellows, comes at the end of a five-year dispute between proponents of a "theme-park" future for the zoo and those insisting it remain primarily a centre for conservation activities such as captive breeding.

Mr Jones, aged 47, overall director of Regent's Park and its sister zoo at Whipsnade since 1984, has been the most visible figure in the argument caused by the zoo's inability to pay its way in the face of falling gate receipts.

A council composed largely of new members appointed in the summer, and pressed by some of the active zoologists among the fellowship, has now decided that the proper way forward is with animals rather than with commerce, and yesterday it signalled that the once-favoured theme-park idea was dead by scrapping the management core group set up to develop it.

Peter Holwell, the principal of London University, who is the council's treasurer, said in a statement: "The council has established a clear way forward for the development of its zoos on an animal-centred basis." Mr Jones's £50,000

post is to be scrapped from April 30 and a new director appointed solely for London Zoo. Mr Jones is discussing a part-time position as co-ordinator of the society's international conservation activities.

The timing of his removal caused considerable concern among zoo staff yesterday, not least because Mr Jones has just presided over a 30 per cent cut in zoo staff and the transfer of over a thousand animals. After a £2 million operating deficit the zoo is likely to break even in the coming financial year.

One senior zoo figure said: "The council have made a serious mistake. They hope to appoint a new director, but who is going to come into this situation, completely fresh to it, having no knowledge of the background and not even whether the zoo is going to survive? We don't see a definite way forward."

A council composed largely of new members appointed in the summer, and pressed by some of the active zoologists among the fellowship, has now decided that the proper way forward is with animals rather than with commerce, and yesterday it signalled that the once-favoured theme-park idea was dead by scrapping the management core group set up to develop it.

Peter Holwell, the principal of London University, who is the council's treasurer, said in a statement: "The council has established a clear way forward for the development of its zoos on an animal-centred basis." Mr Jones's £50,000

Poll tax debts add £21 to each bill

Government hopes that poll tax bills will average £257 a head from April appeared increasingly forlorn yesterday after councils said they would have to levy at least £21 a head more to make up for non-payment. (Douglas Broom writes).

At the same time, an analysis of county council budgets showed that poll tax bills outside London and the metropolitan areas would be further inflated by plans for an increase in spending of an average of 8 per cent. Taken together, the moves could add up to £40 a head to bills in some parts of the shire counties, driving the poll tax close to the £300 level predicted by Labour.

A survey of 144 councils by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy found that they were planning to add an average of £21.37 a head to bills from April to cover shortfalls caused by non-payment.

Metropolitan districts planned the biggest surcharges, an average of £32 a head. The London borough of Brent, now under Tory control after more than a decade of Labour rule, said it was considering adding £150 a head for non-payment.

By contrast, shire districts were planning surcharges averaging £14.50 while in Wales, where payment levels are high, the average was around £3 a head.

Bill backed

A bill to allow district nurses and health visitors to prescribe simple medicines, ointments and dressings was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons yesterday. It has strong backing from the government and the Opposition, and is supported by nurses, doctors and patients' organisations. Special training will be provided and a list of allowed medicines drawn up.

Target nears

Book Aid winds up its appeal this weekend to send a million books to Russia and expects to achieve its target. In addition to the 150,000 volumes already sent to Russia, at least 500,000 books have been collected and 150,000 promised in the past two weeks. The charity's warehouse in King's Cross, London (Tel: 0171 713-7258), will continue to receive books after the appeal ends tomorrow.

Divorcee loses

A schoolmistress lost an appeal yesterday against a court order to pay her former husband £54,261 from the matrimonial assets. Gillian Lovelace, of Richmond, southwest London, had said in a statement supporting her claim for after-divorce financial relief in 1987, that she had no plans to re-marry or live with another man. She has since remarried and the court said that it believed the relationship had existed in 1987.

Sunday shops

Enthusiasm for Sunday shopping has eased since the pre-Christmas period, when 2.4 million households took advantage, compared with 900,000 last Sunday, says a Nielsen survey of 7,100 homes, published yesterday.

CORRECTION

Saturday's radio details were given in error in yesterday's paper. We apologise to readers.

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Photo: Cunard

Kidnap police may have let abductor slip through net

BY CRAIG SETON AND PETER DAVENPORT

SPECULATION grew yesterday that the police operation to catch the kidnapper of a woman estate agent may have gone wrong at a critical moment enabling him to escape with a £175,000 ransom.

West Midlands police disclosed no further details yesterday of the plan involving 1,000 officers that they masterminded on Wednesday to free Stephanie Slater, aged 25, and apprehend her abductor. The ransom was picked up from a moorland location at Ospring, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

However, Paul Burkshaw, aged 38, who lives in Ospring, told how he was detained by police officers on Wednesday night around the time that it is understood a courier left the ransom close to a disused railway bridge.

Mr Burkshaw's account suggests that officers were very close to the ransom drop point, waiting for the kidnapper, and disclosed their presence when they stopped and questioned him. Mr Burkshaw said he lived

about a quarter of a mile from the bridge. When he returned home in his car between 8pm and 8.30pm he noticed three men in another vehicle. Once inside his house, his dog had started barking and he went outside to investigate.

"It was dark and foggy," he said. "I heard a noise, but I could not see anyone. I heard some whispering. It must have been undercover officers in the field near the house. I asked them who they were and they said something like 'We are looking for the pub' and I heard them going off down the field. I think there were two."

Mr Burkshaw said that at about 9.15pm he left the house to go and pick up his wife and noticed for the first time a series of small signs bearing the word Shipways—the name of the Birmingham estate agents where Miss Slater worked. It is believed these had been placed by the kidnapper to show the courier the route to follow and were likely to have been put there after Mr Burkshaw had arrived home as he had not seen them earlier. He said

West Midlands police said after the release of Miss Slater that they had not moved to try to arrest the kidnapper because it could have endangered her life. Their fears for her safety and the escape of the kidnapper assume greater significance if it is confirmed that he is the same man who abducted and strangled Julie Dart, aged 18, in West Yorkshire last July.

The Yorkshire connection in the Slater abduction led West Midlands and West Yorkshire police to keep in constant touch during the eight days she was missing. Detectives are now understood to have concluded with the help of handwriting experts that there are distinct similarities in phrasing in letters from the kidnapper in both cases.

The man who abducted Miss Dart in Leeds and dumped her body near Grantham, Lincolnshire, had demanded £140,000 ransom and wrote letters to police talking about playing a game with officers. There were several links with the Midlands, including a 50-year-old laundry mark on a sheet in which the girl's body was wrapped, which was traced to a denunciavit in Coventry.

The man who took Miss Slater gave a false address in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, where the county force has its headquarters, and asked for the ransom money to be taken to a location only five miles from the spot in South Yorkshire where Miss Dart's kidnapper left a hoax bomb in August last year.

South Yorkshire police said yesterday that they were surprised not to have been told of the operation by West Midlands in their area until 4am on Thursday.

A spokeswoman said that although, procedurally, the force did not have to be informed, some officers thought it might have been wiser to have involved policemen with local knowledge.

Julie Dart link, page 1

Jail swap for IRA men considered

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to transfer republican prisoners convicted of terrorist offences in Britain to jails in Northern Ireland are being considered by government officials.

Any decision to move convicted terrorists back to the milder remission regime of Northern Ireland and to the much better conditions at the Maze and Maghaberry jails would be fraught with political and legal difficulties.

A total of about 60 prisoners, serving sentences for terrorist and non-terrorist crimes, are understood to want to transfer to the province so they can be closer to their families. The government is under renewed pressure to allow the transfers after recommendations in the Woolf report that prisoners should serve their sentences in jails near their homes.

Among those who have been refused a transfer are Patrick Magee, serving eight life sentences for the Brighton bomb attack; Martina Anderson, jailed for conspiring to cause explosions in 1985; and Robert Walpole, William Armstrong and Paul Holmes.

Walpole, Armstrong and Holmes were jailed at Winchester for causing explosions at Great Scotland Yard and the Central Criminal Court in March 1973. They were also convicted of conspiring with Dolours and Marian Price to cause explosions, but the Price sisters have been released from Ulster jails where they were transferred after hunger strikes in England.

Politicians from both communities in the province have pressed for prisoners to be

Actress fights rule that cost US role

BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

JULIET STEVENSON, the award-winning British actress, has called for an end to restrictions on American and British actors working in one another's countries after her loss of a Broadway role.

She has accused Equity, the British actors' union, of failing to support Britons invited to work in the United States after American Actors' Equity's successfully opposed her transferring there with a British production.

Miss Stevenson has disclosed that her praised performance in Ariel Dorfman's play *Death and the Maiden*, at the Royal Court theatre and to transfer to the West End this month, is not acceptable to the American union. An invitation to her by the director of the Broadway production, Mike Nichols, was opposed by American Equity because she is not recognised as a star. Glenn Close, star of the British-directed film *Dangerous Liaisons*, will take the role and star in a film of *Death and the Maiden*.

Yesterday, Miss Stevenson, a rising actress not short of film or stage offers, said: "American Equity kept moving the goal posts. First, they said they would only agree to it if an American actress took the role in London, then that the actress should have the same number of years of experience, and so on until it became plain that they were determined not to let me play the role. I am a supporter of Equity, but I think they should have stood firmer."

Terms between American Equity and the British union on allocation of roles are on a one-for-one basis. Only actors acknowledged as having star status are exempt from the rules, and despite Miss Stevenson's success on the



Stevenson: opposed by American union

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Kinnock and the Kremlin

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Read what the Soviets put on record about their dealings with Kinnock, Michael Foot and Denis Healey – and about Arthur Scargill's secret route for the transfer of a million Soviet rubles. Focus Special – in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Clapton blames nobody for son's death

BY BILL FROST

ERIC Clapton, the rock guitarist, told an inquest yesterday that he held nobody responsible for the death of his son Conner, aged four, who fell from a window of his mother's, 53rd floor apartment in New York while she was in another room.

Reciting a verdict of accidental death, Michael Burgess, the coroner at Guildford, Surrey, said that the boy could never have survived the 500-ft fall. The inquest was told that a cleaner who did not normally work in the block had left a window open in the apartment on March 20 last year.

The cleaner left the room and at that point Conner ran in. "He ran straight across the room, not seeing the open window and tipped," Mr Clapton told the inquest.

Lori Del Santo, the boy's mother, was in another part of the flat at the time of the accident, Mr Clapton said. The musician arrived at the block 20 minutes after Conner's fall, to find Ms Del Santo, his former wife, in a state of hysteria. The boy's mother had discovered the accident as she prepared to take him out for lunch. She called and called, but got no answer, Mr Clapton said.

"I was in a state of shock. I was shown the open window.

All I remember was there was nothing there. You might feel a breeze, but other



Good years: Eric Clapton in February 1990 with the son he says saved his life

than that it did not look any different from how it would normally look. "It could not have been anyone's fault. I do not know if the man who opened the window was even aware there was a child in the apartment. He was not to blame," he said.

The inquest was told that Conner normally lived with his mother in Italy, but they

had moved to Manhattan about two weeks before his death. The day before the fall Mr Clapton had taken him to the circus. "He was a very frisky child, full of energy and full of life," he said.

In an interview with Sue Lawley for Granada television, to be screened later this month, the guitarist tells how Conner's birth had

Acid bath wife 'was in bed with man'

BY RICHARD DUKE

A BUILDER charged with the acid bath murder of his wife had found her in bed with another man only months before he killed her, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

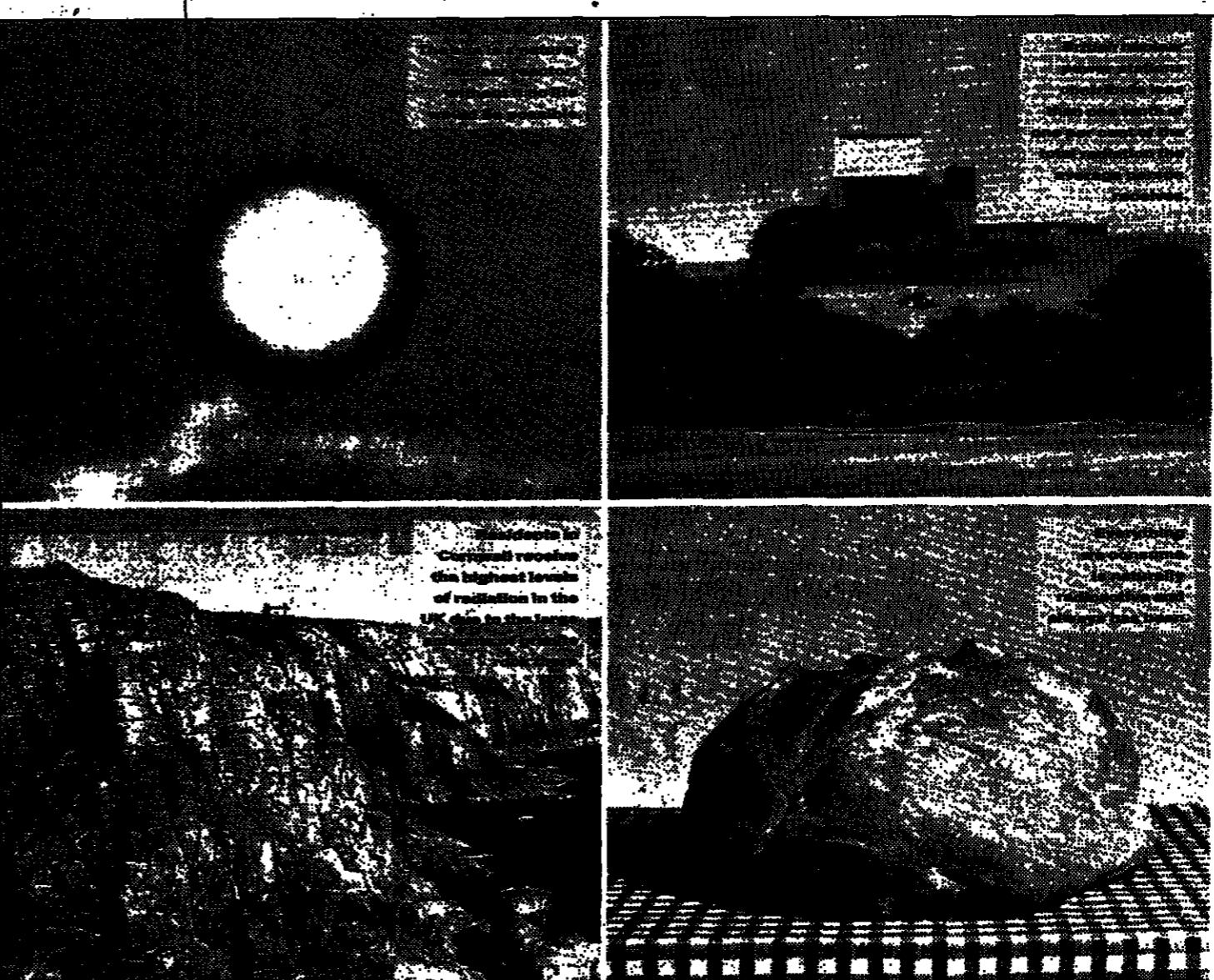
Cecil Jackson, who is conducting his own defence, cross-examined Lee Gibbs who admitted having a brief affair with Dassa Jackson but denied it lasted 13 years.

Mr Gibbs said that he was in bed with Mrs Jackson, who had left her husband, in autumn 1990 when Jackson entered the bedroom. "We were asleep. There was a sound of a door breaking downstairs and then the bedroom door was broken open. I got up and she hid behind me. I asked him to leave. He said that Dassa should not be hiding behind me but going to him. Then he left."

Mr Jackson, aged 30, later went back to her husband but the prosecution alleges that he then planned her murder after taking out an insurance policy which would have paid him £57,000 on her death.

Jackson, aged 37, is said to have lured his wife to a lock-up garage near their home in Forest Gate, east London, where he tried to throttle her and then placed her in a bath filled with hydrochloric acid.

Mrs Jackson has admitted manslaughter but denies murdering his wife last February. The trial continues on Monday.



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Joe in 110

Standards slip at
Byson's old school

FROM A MEXICAN FIESTA
TO A CARIBBEAN SIESTA
IN 5-STAR LUXURY.

CUNARD

Technology prizes for students go begging

BY JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A NEW technology competition for university and polytechnic students had to be cancelled for lack of entries yesterday, as the government announced its latest initiative to improve basic knowledge of the subject.

Six large industrial sponsors had put more than £50,000 into the competition, run by the National Economic Development Office and the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Students were asked to design an automated product or service for the home of the future, with the prospect of vacation employment and cash prizes.

Douglas Fraser, Industrial Director of the National Economic Development Office, said: "The few entries that have been received to date were very promising. It is a great pity that these students will not have the opportunity to compete against their peers for the chance of seeing their designs realised." Although

33 universities and polytechnics expressed interest, only six entered.

Barbara Stephens, Nedo's industrial adviser, said that academic snobbery was partly responsible. Some technology departments, more used to working with the defence industry, felt it a comedown to work on home automation.

The thousands of six and seven year-olds sitting the first national tests in technology this summer will be allowed no such inhibitions.

They may be asked to design and make animal shelters, or control robots with computers.

The optional tests will assess basic practical and technical skills. Tim Eggar, education minister, said children would be asked to identify a problem, design a solution, make what they have designed and then evaluate the product, he said. "By the time today's seven-year-olds reach the age of 21 in 2006, these skills will be seen as crucial to both individual and national success."

Five-year-olds started to learn technology as part of the national curriculum in 1990. Each pupil will take four tests in design and technology, lasting about 30 minutes.

The National Union of Teachers said ministers must have been "living on the moon for the last five years" to approve such foolish and impractical tests. Doug McAvo, the general secretary, said they would take days to complete and could not be taken by whole classes at once.

"This is typical of ministers who never talk to teachers and therefore come up with foolish ideas," he said. "They never think of particular problems. For example, we can't let a class of 30 six and seven-year-olds loose with scissors at once."

"This is typical of ministers who never talk to teachers and therefore come up with foolish ideas," he said. "They never think of particular problems. For example, we can't let a class of 30 six and seven-year-olds loose with scissors at once."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said that schools should consider whether they could cope with the tests. "If they lack the resources and if the tests are too far-fetched, primary schools should think very carefully before volunteering to participate."

Letters, page 13

Tasks set for pupils at seven

SIX and seven-year-olds will be expected to perform various technological tasks set at four levels, including the following. The average seven-year-old is expected to reach level two. Level one is pitched at the ability of the average five-year-old; level three the nine-year-old; and level four the 11-year-old.

□ Level one: Talk about the way common pieces of equipment work and are controlled; use a "concept" keyboard to select a sequence of instructions.

□ Level two: Develop ideas for a shop through drawings and experimentation; save information in a database and return to it later.

□ Level three: Use a word processor to write and edit instructions; use knowledge of materials to start making a shop.

□ Level four: Develop a set of commands to control the movement of a screen image or robot; understand the social and economic implications of particular artefacts or environments.

Standards slip at Boyson's old school

BY LIN JENKINS

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, has ordered widespread changes at a school that was once one of the most popular comprehensives in London, after a report concluded that it was failing its pupils.

Highbury Grove secondary boys' school in Islington had a reputation for traditional standards, strictness and academic excellence born during the headship of Sir Rhodes Boyson MP, who left 18 years ago and went on to be a junior minister under Margaret Thatcher.

The report, by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, paints a portrait of an entirely different environment, where "the often poor behaviour, high levels of absence and unpunctuality contribute to under-achievement." Mr

Clarke has written to the local education authority asking it to oversee a plan of action to improve standards and to report on the progress by February 28.

The school has pupils from a wide range of ethnic minority backgrounds, speaking more than 30 languages. New pupils arriving at all ages often have a poor command of English. Peter Searl, the headmaster, said that governors and staff welcomed the report, and that the management team was being restructured.

□ Michael Fallon, schools minister, has demanded improvements in work standards at East Quinton school for children with emotional and behavioural problems, in Seaford, East Sussex, after an inspector's report.

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CUNARD



Goose-free zone: Carla Lane, creator of the television series *Bread*, surveys a Battersea Park where geese are now slightly rarer

Canada geese play hard to net

By LOUISE HIDALGO

A FLOCK of Canada geese, the scourge of a London council, showed its preference for inner-city life yesterday as most birds shunned attempts by animal welfare campaigners to save them from being shot. All but 16 avoided capture during a rescue attempt at Battersea Park which had the blessing of Wandsworth council.

The rescue was planned by the television scriptwriter Carla Lane who wants to give the birds a new home. As her group arrived with crates to transport 80 geese, a battle of wits began. Brian Mist, an onlooker, said: "They scattered crushed miller and then rushed forward with long nets into the geese. Most just flew off in flight."

The operation was nevertheless hailed a success after the council said it would not shoot the 20 to 30 birds left before the open season ends today. The council would not rule out "selective thinning" later. It considers the park geese, which it says totalled 600 last year, a health risk.

The 16 trapped are to be kept at an undisclosed destination, with wings clipped, until they settle in.

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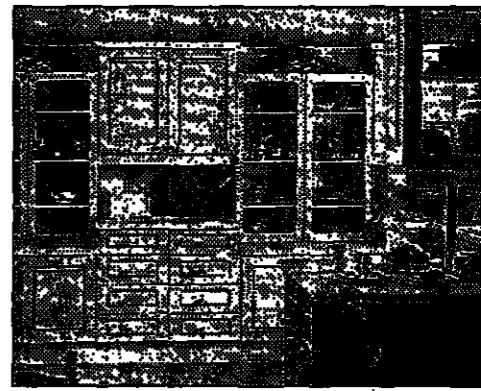


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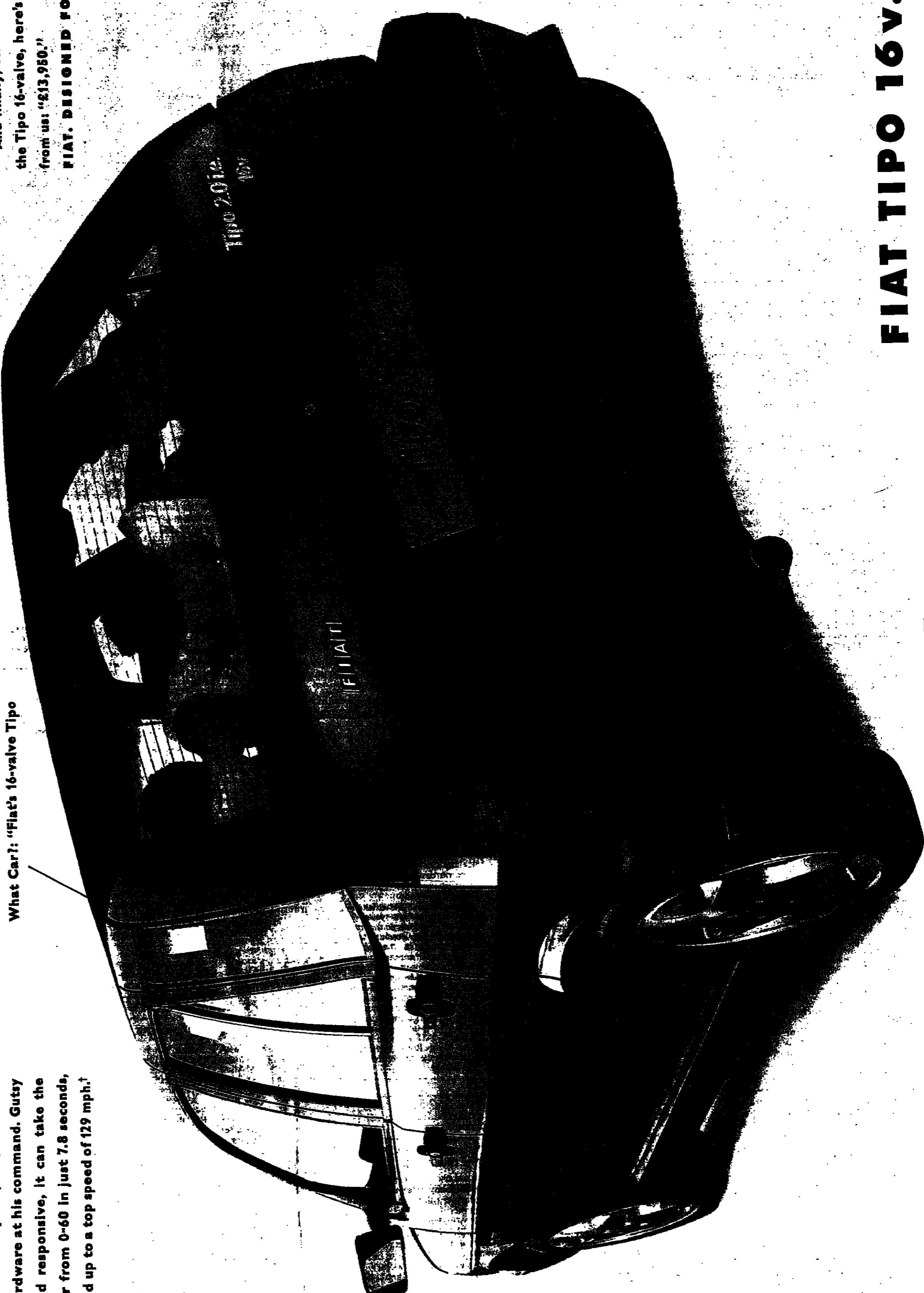
is not only a terrific performer, it's civilised, comfortable and well constructed too." (So well constructed that the car's after-care

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The United Nations summit: Germany and Japan press for role as permanent powers

Major resists call to alter security council's line-up

FROM ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN NEW YORK

JOHN Major yesterday made clear that Britain would resist any attempt to alter the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, on which Britain is represented with America, Russia, China and France.

He is opposing, too, any suggestion that the organisation set up a permanent standby military force. Interviewed on American television yesterday, the prime minister said that it was not sensible to "go down the byways of institutional change". It would, he said, be a "distraction" when the body was changing its role for a more active one in peace-making and peacekeeping.

Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary,

are resisting growing arguments that as the UN is asked to reshape its future role, the so-called Big Five should be altered to reflect the changed realities of world power and to attract greater financial support from richer nations.

Mr Major yesterday pressed Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister whose country is currently one of the ten circulating two-year members of the 15-nation security council, to take a more active role on the world political scene. But he is opposing any moves for Japan or Germany to become members of the five.

Britain is also fighting any suggestion that the positions occupied in the five by Britain and France should be taken up by a representative of the European Community. Nor would Britain support the incorporation of an extra member to represent Third World nations. The British argument is that you should not "change a winning team", and the present five have become the motor of the organisation.

Mr Major, who convened yesterday's meeting as the current security council chairman, was anxious to use the meeting to establish both President Yeltsin of Russia and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the new secretary-general, as leading UN figures. He also wanted a mandate for Dr Boutros Ghali to revamp the United Nations to take a more positive role in future, intervening in disputes before they lead to war.

Mr Major and Mr Hurd believe that any discussion of the security council membership would divert the organisation into lengthy and unprofitable wrangles just when the ending of the Cold War, the release of hostages in Lebanon and the successful prosecution of the Gulf war under UN auspices has given the organisation a new working cohesion and effectiveness. Japan, however, made it clear yesterday that it would press for a permanent seat on the security council.

Masamichi Hanabusa, a foreign ministry spokesman, said it deserved one in view of its large contribution to the United Nations, and "the sooner the better". But he said that Japan was not expecting the change within months, and thought that the 50th anniversary of the organisation's founding, in 1995, would be an appropriate target date.

Japan's aim in seeking a permanent seat appeared to be the need to convince taxpayers at home that Tokyo had a bigger say in decision-making at a time when expensive UN peacekeeping operations are being expanded.

Return to Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, who ordered the suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square, returned to the international fold yesterday despite persistent concern about his country's human rights record and export of missile technology (James Bone writes). He took China's seat beside other leaders at the security council table and was later to hold his first meeting with President Bush since 1989.

UN talks, page 13
Leading article, page 13

Vultures find rich pickings in Sudanese rebel feuding



Al-Bashir: taking advantage of schism

RESPLENDENT in a red beret and staff-officer collar georgette, Commander Riak sits in a mud hut on the Ethiopian-Sudanese border. The leader of a breakaway group of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which split with the movement's long-time leader, Dr John Garang, in August last year, is evasive about his clashes with Dr Garang's forces, predominantly Dinka tribesmen who are now known as the Turi faction after their base further south on the Ugandan frontier.

Their first encounter, at Bor on the banks of the White Nile, ended in the rout of Dr Garang's men and the mass killing of between 2,000 and 5,000 civilians. The murders were recorded on video by a worker with the Norwegian People's Aid organisation, and witnessed by members of

Brutal infighting in the guerrilla Sudan People's Liberation Army has left it open to attack by Khartoum's forces, Sam Kiley reports from southern Sudan

the United Nations World Food Programme.

The bodies of women and children fed up and speared of old men garroted and shot, and of thousands of cattle killed or blinded with pangas, were also catalogued by a doctor from the British-based charity, Health Unlimited. The bodies still litter the road to Mongalla, and vultures and wild dogs now feed off the corpses. The killings occurred last month when the victims were fleeing south with 200,000 other refugees. Mutilating the cattle was an especially cruel act, aimed at hurting the Dinka, who virtu-

ally worship their cows and treat the animals like members of the family.

"I was in radio contact with my officers in the field every moment of the battle. Of course, we are very worried and upset by the deaths of the civilians, but they were killed in crossfire. The fighting was very heavy, with a lot of heavy weapons being used, and it was inevitable that civilians would be killed. But there was no massacre," Commander Riak said.

The commander, an industrial engineer with a master's degree from Strathclyde University and a doctorate

from Bradford, is a member of the Nuer tribe — the next largest to the Dinka. He was anxious to dispel the view that the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which for eight years has been fighting the Islamic government in Khartoum for control of the Christian and animist south of Sudan, was now irrevocably

ruined along tribal lines.

gor the better of them, according to aid workers on the scene. "Hundreds of half or totally naked Nuer swept through the city armed with AK47s and shot and stabbed anything that moved," one aid worker said.

Since the split in the rebel army, President al-Bashir, Sudan's military ruler, is said

to have ordered huge troop movements from Sennar, southeast of Khartoum, and from southern Kordofan to the battle zone. In the current dry season the vast swamplands surrounding Nasir, on the banks of the Salongo river, and south to Juba, are accessible, and Commander Riak is expecting an assault on the liberation army's positions from the north.

Both factions of the rebel army are scheduled to hold ceasefire talks in Nairobi next month and have agreed a

temporary halt to hostilities. However, Dr Garang, has launched the biggest attack in several years on Juba, the last southern redoubt of Khartoum's forces, in which at least 100 people were killed. Control of Juba would give the rebels total control of the southern half of Sudan.

"We know that Khartoum

is delighted with our infighting and that is why we are not assaulting Garang's positions at the moment," Commander Riak said, acknowledging that since President al-Bashir recently signed a \$300 million (£168 million) trade pact with Iran, which is also supplying Silkworm missiles and other weapons to his National Islamic Front, the rebel army looks increasingly vulnerable.

Moreover, Iranian Revolutionary Guards are claimed to be training militiamen in Sennar, and both rebel army

factions fear that the Iranian troops, who also have a presence in Juba, may soon take an active role in fighting.

But as the swamplands of Nasir crack into slabs in the dry heat, Commander Riak waits for the return of his British wife, Emma McCune, aged 27, who Dr Garang once blamed for the dispute with Riak, calling it "Emma's Split", and for the schism that he created to heal. "The longer this split goes on the harder it will be for it to heal and the easier it will be for Khartoum to attack us. If this goes on I fear the Sudan could collapse like Liberia or Somalia.

Garang must subject himself to free elections within the movement and we should all bow to the will of the people. He believes he can crush us, but he cannot, he does not have the forces," Commander Riak said.

Democrats line up to enter race

Runners struggle in the campaign mire

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

EASTONISHINGLY dramatic week of 1992 presidential campaign drew to a close yesterday with almost every candidate a loser.

new poll confirmed the that President Bush's heralded State of the Union speech on Tuesday failed flat. Bill Clinton, Democratic party candidate, managed to stay in the race despite charges of adultery, but some party strategists believe he has been "politically wounded". Mr Clinton's troubles so monopolised the media that the campaigns of his less well-known Democratic rivals were dying on their feet.

poorly were Mr Bush's opponents faring that name Democrats like

Richard Gephardt, the House leader, and Senators Lloyd Bentsen and Al Gore were widely reported to be reconsidering their earlier decisions not to run. Vice-President Dan Quayle yesterday predicted that Mario Cuomo, New York's governor, would end up as the Democratic nominee.

The White House had touted the State of the Union speech as the defining moment of Mr Bush's presidency, but it played at best to lukewarm reviews and a Washington Post poll yesterday showed 70 per cent of people believed the economic recovery package was inadequate. The speech lifted Mr Bush's approval ratings by a single point to 46 per cent.

"The president gave the State of the Union message the very best he had in him, and that's the saddest part of all," A.M. Rosenthal, the *New York Times* columnist, wrote yesterday. Even White House insiders lamented that it contained nothing to inspire Republicans to go out and campaign for Mr Bush. Senior Republicans in California are warning the president that America's biggest state could fall to the Democrats for the first time in three decades.

By late in the week, Mr Clinton's aides claimed the media "feeding frenzy" was abating and the Arkansas governor's personal ordeal was over. Fund-raising had, if anything, been boosted and polls showed he remained the front runner in New Hampshire, where the critical first primary is 18 days away.

The longer-term damage is harder to gauge. The party had begun to unite behind Mr Clinton because of his evident "electability", but some Democrats now believe his admission of unspecified past dalliances could prove too much of a liability. Polls show a public divided on whether to believe his denials of a 12-year affair with Jennifer Flowers, a former night-club singer, and that roughly 15 per cent would never vote for a candidate known to have had an extra-marital affair. There is also the danger of other women coming forward, and if Mr Clinton wins the Democratic nomination he will be fighting a president who will campaign ruthlessly on family values.

Normally when a front runner stumbles, those trailing catch him up, but not in this case. While Mr Clinton has instantly become a household name, they have been sliding back into obscurity.

"This reminds me of the Cuomo-watch," complained Paul Tsongas, the former Massachusetts senator, referring to the fact that Mr Cuomo's ditherings completely overshadowed the declared candidates throughout the autumn.

There was one other loser this week. Ms Flowers was sacked from her \$17,000-a-year (£9,500) Arkansas state job for unauthorised absence. Officials insisted that Mr Clinton was not involved in the decision.

Showbiz and justice, page 12

Ford joins chorus on Kennedy files

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

RALD Ford, the former president, has added his voice to those demanding release of all sealed files relating to the assassination of President Kennedy in order to refute the charges of the CIA, the Pentagon and other government agencies responsible.

Mr Ford, sole surviving member of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination, has written to Thomas Foley, the House Speaker, urging publication of all relevant documents to "resolve any legitimate doubts" about a government conspiracy.

Mr Foley's film suggests elements of America's party-industrial complex government agencies d Kennedy as he wanted and the Cold War and draw from Vietnam. The commission concluded in that Lee Harvey Oswald acted on his own, and 2 per cent of its records are classified. But Mr Ford also called for the disclosure of all relevant CIA documents and those of the secret assassinations committee which concluded in 1979.

Kennedy's death was probably the result of a conspiracy. Mr Ford urged that a new panel of scientists be established to review the account

which led the house investigation to conclude that a fourth shot was fired at the president, not by Oswald.

Since the release of *JFK*, many senior congressmen, including Louis Stokes, the Ohio Democrat who chaired the house investigation, Edward Kennedy, the murdered president's brother, and Mr Foley, have said that they favour publication of most of the committee's 848 boxes of records, officially sealed until 2029. A congressional resolution has been introduced but not yet voted on. The *New York Times* and other influential publications have called for full disclosure. This week 13 staff members of the Warren Commission joined the chorus, though presidential as well as congressional approval would be required for the release of secret government material. Those privy to the two investigations claim the sealed documents will show nothing new, but want the record set straight.

Stone issued a statement from Rome welcoming calls for full disclosure. "After 28 years of defending the indefensible, the Warren Commission staff members accuse me of corrupting the truth and of irresponsibility. But responsible people would have begun an investigation years ago."

The Israeli prime minister wants to persevere with talks on Palestinian autonomy in the poll run-up, reports Richard Beeston from Jerusalem

traditional foes to help him win re-election. The peace talks, once treated with great suspicion by the Israeli leader, now form the central theme of his re-election campaign, aimed at convincing voters that only Likud can deliver a peaceful end to the 43-year conflict.

Mr Shamir, who said he would remain as Likud leader as long as he enjoyed the support of his followers, appeared confident of leading his party to victory. However, he conceded that his government faced serious difficulties on economic matters and in absorbing hundreds of thousands of new immigrants, a problem he described as "a mission impossible". Opinion polls

published yesterday suggested that he is losing support to the opposition Labour party, largely because of growing unemployment and rising inflation, which this month reduced the flow of immigration from the former Soviet Union to a two-year low. The Smith Research Institute poll, published in the Hebrew daily *Da'at*, revealed that 80 per cent of Israelis are dissatisfied with the government's handling of the economy and 64 per cent disapprove of Mr Shamir's overall performance as prime minister.

Part of his problem is that

the price of concessions on the part of Israel. None of our citizens is very enthusiastic about making concessions on the matter of our security. We know our neighbours," the prime minister said laughing.

in the guarantees," said Mr Shamir, visibly perturbed by the dilemma. "On the other hand, we cannot link these guarantees to principles of our national policy."

The problem for Mr Shamir, who entered politics in the 1930s as a member of the notorious Jewish underground Stern Gang, is likely to grow more acute as the election date approaches and the conflicting aspects of his re-election policy, such as wanting the settlements and the loan guarantees, come under closer public scrutiny. However, Mr Shamir's uncompromising stand on security could well swing the election in his favour. "It is very easy to promise solutions with the price of concessions. On the other hand, we cannot link these guarantees to principles of our national policy."

Shamir: confident of success for Likud

antennas, has been held up by an unprecedented dispute over Mr Shamir's insistence on continuing to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, in defiance of objections from the White House.

"It is a very complicated matter because, on the one hand, we are very interested

in the guarantees," said Mr Shamir, visibly perturbed by the dilemma. "On the other hand, we cannot link these guarantees to principles of our national policy."

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Speaking on army radio, Mr Arens said that "this time I will not give in" — a reference to his decision in 1988 to let Mr Levy have the post for the sake of party unity and peace.

Mr Levy, seen as a moderate, did not immediately react to what the radio commentator described as a "declaration of war". But those close to him said that he was prepared to retaliate against Mr Shamir, according to Israeli newspapers. The number two spot is considered vital in the struggle to succeed Mr Shamir. Ariel Sharon, the housing minister and Likud hardliner, is the only declared contender for the leadership. (AFP)

Party fight: Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, yesterday said he was determined to secure the number two post in the governing Likud bloc, which is currently occupied by David Levy, the foreign minister.

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Cash bonus

Tokyo: A dentist in Osaka who was shot in the chest by a gunman was saved from serious injury by his warden, Hiroshi Oyama, aged 62, (£1,068) in cash and the bullet was lodged in the bundle of notes. (AP)

Keating runs down the Union Jack

Sydney: With the Queen due to visit Australia this month, Paul Keating, the prime minister, chose yesterday to announce that it was high time the Union Jack was removed from the Australian national flag. (Robert Cockburn writes.)

Setting a decidedly republican tone in his first weeks as Australia's prime minister, Mr Keating said: "I suppose people around the world are entitled to say: 'Well, look at your flag. You've got the flag of another country in the corner. I mean are you a colony or are you a nation?'"

Mr Keating, the first Australian leader publicly to advocate the change, was responding to a national campaign launched last week to remove the Union Jack and leave the distinctive Southern Cross constellation as the national emblem.

Legal tender

Taipei: The Taiwanese high court has recognised as legal tender the currency of mainland China, the island's arch-enemy. The judgment is a landmark ruling on the renminbi, which means "people's money", as Taiwan does not recognise China. (Reuters)

Temper taxed

Los Angeles: An engineer, said to have become angry when income tax authorities disallowed \$8,500 (£4,775) in deductions, was sentenced to 20 years in jail for making car-bomb and mortar attacks on tax offices. He was also fined \$45,000. (Reuters)

Role for son

Phnom Penh: The Cambodian national assembly has replaced two deputy prime ministers, appointing Prince Norodom Chakrapong, a son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the head of state, and Sar Kheng, leader of the ruling People's party. (AFP)

Earthly call

Bogotá: A Colombian nun, Manuela Pena Jacanajemoy, has decided to hang up her habit and stand for mayor after the people of Santa Rosa, a poor town of 5,000 in Cauca province, persuaded her to run for office. No one has yet opposed her. (AFP)

Syphilis threat

Atlanta: A syphilis epidemic caused by the widespread sex-for-drugs trade has worsened in the South but has declined in the Midwest, the American Centres for Disease Control reported. (Reuters)

Dry measure

Manila: The Philippines is to be alcohol-free for 24 hours this weekend to allow an orderly voter registration for the spring elections, the electoral commission said. The sale, purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages would be illegal. (AFP)

Marine mystery

Hanoi: American officials said two sets of remains, alleged by Phnom Penh to be those of two marines missing since a May 1975 clash with the Khmer Rouge and handed over earlier this month, were not those of American servicemen. (AFP)

Shamir relies on peacemaker image for election victory



Shamir: confident of success for Likud

Demand for cabinet resignations

Habash is placed in Paris police custody

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE storm over the French government's decision to admit George Habash, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, for emergency treatment in Paris intensified yesterday with opposition demands for the resignation of cabinet ministers involved.

As judicial authorities formally placed Dr Habash in police custody, possibly opening the way to arrest on charges of terrorism, the scandal that has claimed the jobs of four government advisers gathered momentum.

Dr Habash's radical organisation, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, insisted yesterday that its leader's urgent transfer to France after suffering a stroke in Tunis had been cleared at the highest level in Paris. Speaking from Amman, a representative claimed there had been "an official and political agreement with the French government which involved the foreign and interior ministries, as well as the Elysée palace". The French government had given the go-ahead for the French Red Cross to send an aircraft to collect Dr Habash, the front's official maintained. "They also arranged for security for him at the hospital."

There was no immediate reaction to this statement in the Elysée yesterday, nor to reports that the front had



Dufour: resigned as president's adviser

ina Dufour, resigned as an adviser to President Mitterrand immediately the affair became public, is adamant that the offices of Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, and Philippe Marchand, minister of the interior, had been kept fully briefed. Its spokesman said in Paris yesterday that the request from the Tunisian Red Crescent organisation to accept him for treatment had been notified to both ministries last

Monday and that the Quai d'Orsay had formally authorised the transfer.

The humiliation that this hideously bungled affair has already caused President Mitterrand — who left for New York yesterday to attend the special session of the United Nations Security Council — suggests that more heads will probably roll. Kept in the dark about the arrival of Dr Habash until he had embarked on an official visit to Oman, M Mitterrand reportedly returned to Paris on Wednesday night in a cold fury.

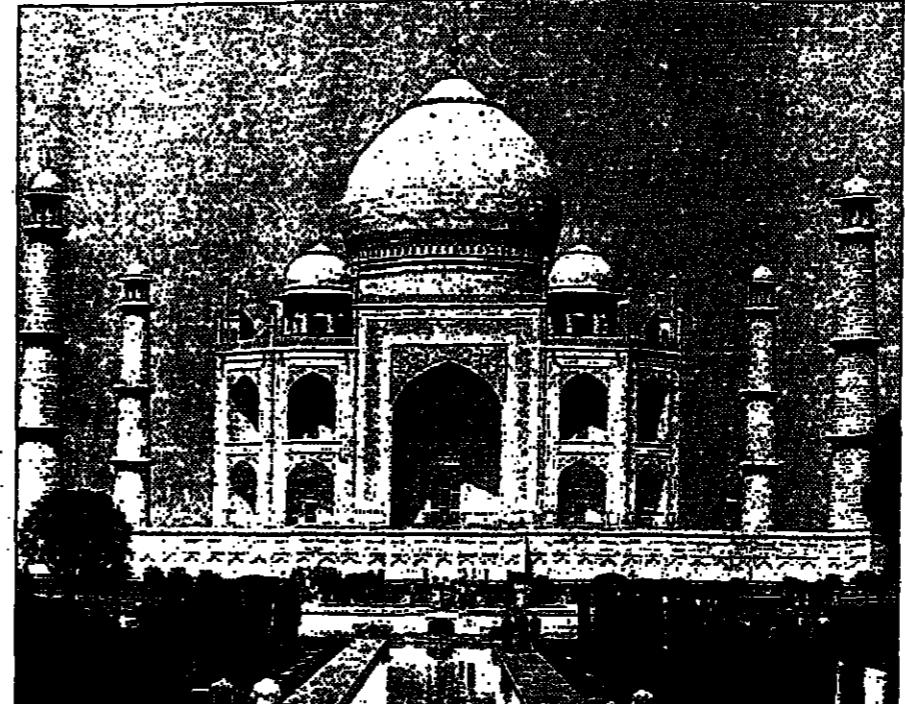
With the French media virtually united in bitter criticism of the Socialist government — "France at the criminal's bedside," raged *Le Quotidien* newspaper — Edith Cresson is now facing her most serious challenge as prime minister.

The Israeli embassy in Paris increased the pressure on the government yesterday. The chargé d'affaires, Yitzhak Edan, expressed Israel's dismay that "the head of one of the world's cruellest terrorist groups should be offered a welcome by France". Israel also hinted that it might ask France to extradite Dr Habash to stand trial for murdering Israeli citizens. The Jewish state holds the popular front responsible for numerous attacks over the last 25 years.

Pollution eats into India's marble glory

STEPHEN MARKSON

The Taj Mahal's beauty is being ruined by acid rain. Christopher Thomas writes from Agra



Mirror of decay: the Taj Mahal is being threatened by irreparable damage

oxides of nitrogen are frequently exceeded.

The Indian Supreme Court has agreed for the first time to hear arguments about the alleged pollution threat, marking a significant victory for environmental lawyers who have tried for years to get the case heard. A petition submitted in 1984, which will form the basis of the hearing, says the Taj is suffering from "marble cancer" caused by acid rain.

Sunil Kumar Singh, an environmental engineer and the regional officer of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, said that there was

evidence of "decomposition" which was affecting the outer appearance of the marble. "The colour is yellowish," he added. But some of this could be attributed to unavoidable ageing. The Taj was battered by sandstorms from the Thar desert and was subjected to summer heat. He said it was not clear to what extent man-made conditions were responsible for discolouring the structure.

Government engineers say that several pieces of marble have had to be replaced. Many iron clamps used to hold marble slabs together have rusted; these

who follows them? Agra city is choking with smoke and the Taj is visibly yellowing."

His petition to the supreme court declares: "In places the yellow hue is magnified by ugly brown and black spots. Fungal deterioration is worst in the inner chamber where the original graves of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal lie."

Shankar Nath, superintendent of the Agra office of the Archaeological Survey of India, said some marble blocks had been replaced because of flaking, although the problem was "negligible." As for discolouring of the stone, he declared: "It is difficult to say what colour the Taj is. It is a monument of moods. It depends on the light and the time of day."

There have long been demands for traffic restrictions around the Taj, which is nearly 350 years old, but traffic has been allowed to increase unchecked with the rapid growth of Agra. The government has banned new industries from within a radius of about 35 miles around the mausoleum, but those that were there before 1983 can legally remain. A steam train shunting yard near the Taj has been closed.

Whether these measures are enough will be the subject of the supreme court hearing, which could still take an extremely long time to be heard because of the slowness of the legal system. One of the main recommendations it will consider is for the Mathura refinery to be ordered to stop polluting the atmosphere or move somewhere else.

German steel union wins strike backing

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY'S steelworkers have overwhelmingly voted in favour of strike action to back a 10.5 per cent pay claim. Ignoring a series of recent warnings from the government and the Bundesbank that high wage settlements will undermine the economy, almost 87 per cent of members instructed their union, IG Metall, to launch a campaign of industrial action for pay rises above the latest 5.7 per cent on offer.

The union represents 100,000 of the 135,000 workers in the Ruhr and northwest, where most of Germany's steel industry is concentrated. The small Christian metalworkers' union did not ballot its members but has promised to give full backing to any industrial action. IG Metall is confident that feelings on the shop floor are running so high that members are prepared for an even longer stoppage than during the last steel dispute in 1979; that lasted 44 days and cost the industry 450 million marks.

Union officials are to meet on Monday to consider the result. They hope that the huge vote for industrial action will persuade employers to make an improved offer before stoppages commence.

But any strike action will not be possible before next Wednesday, and it will probably be the following week before large-scale action begins. Given that the two sides were less than 1 per cent apart on a wage deal when negotiations broke down a

week ago, a compromise is still possible.

The size of the strike vote reflects how inflation rates of more than 4 per cent have increased militancy in the four months since the negotiations began. Higher taxation to pay for unification has eroded pay packets and pushed up the cost of living.

The steelworkers feel particularly victimised since their claim should have been settled last year, when other unions were winning an average of 6.7 per cent wage rises.

Their mood over the past week has been summed up by members outside polling booths waving placards reading "Our anger is great and is still growing".

The union has the funds to provide adequate strike pay for at least two months, and believes employers lack the will to hold out that long.

There are now signs that a long period of decline in the engineering industry is coming to an end, with orders for German plant and machinery rising in December for the first time in a year. The union calculates that the steel producers will not risk losing orders through a long strike.

The government is, nevertheless, looking to the employers to hold a line against any settlements above last year's average. Bank employees and postal workers have begun staging a series of warning strikes in support of 10 per cent pay claims, and other industries are poised to exploit any gains made by the powerful steelworkers.

Deaths in Kosovo hit UN hope

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIAN politicians gathered for emergency talks yesterday as the peace plan brokered by the United Nations for Yugoslavia and Croatia was threatened again by a fresh outbreak of violence.

Milan Babic, the military leader of Croatia's breakaway Serb enclaves, was summoned to explain why he rejected the UN plan to end Serb-dominated federal identity, but it became clear yesterday that he was not the only objector. The Croat leaders issued强硬 statements that were guaranteed to harm the plan.

The presidency gathered shooting was reported in Novi Pazar, a Serbian province with an Albanian population of two million people, renewing fears of continued unrest in the region. Fehimi Agani, vice-president of the Democratic League of Kosovo, said that Serbian police had killed three parents who were taking their children school.

The police said that had died in Uje, west of Pristina, the regional capital after a group of villagers stoned and shot at the police.

Rape case woman admits to seeking Tyson's attention

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN INDIANAPOLIS

DESIREE Washington, who accused Mike Tyson, the former heavyweight boxing champion of rape, told the court yesterday that she had sought his attention at a beauty pageant but had no interest in a relationship.

The Miss Black America

contestant said she was surprised but not alarmed when Tyson kissed her after she got into his car before the alleged attack on July 19. "Did you have some hopes of establishing a relationship with Tyson?" the defence lawyer, Vincent Fuller, asked during cross-examination. "I would never see him again," she said. "How could I hope to have any relationship with him?"

Mr Fuller described her in his opening statement as an angry woman seeking revenge against Tyson for treating her indifferently.

After she consented to sex, Ms Washington told Mr Fuller that she and other contestants were excited at the prospect of meeting Tyson when he appeared to promote the pageant.

"Did you seek to get his attention?" he asked.

"Yes," she said.

"How did you do that?" he asked.

"I asked him to take a picture with us," she replied. She added that she wrote her hotel telephone and room numbers on a piece of paper and handed it to Tyson after he asked for a date. "I was excited about the prospect, the idea, but at that point I didn't really think anything was going to happen," she said.

"Were you taken aback when Tyson, a perfect stranger, kissed you on the lips?" she was asked by the defence. Ms Washington

replied: "No." The lawyer went on: "That gave you no kind of signal about what Mr Tyson was thinking about?"

"No. He wasn't dirty or mean or anything like that," she said.

During questioning by the prosecution on Thursday, she spoke of her high school achievements, travels to the Soviet Union, a student legislature bill she drafted on date rape — and of the night she claimed ended in a brutal attack. She said that Tyson pinned her to the bed, stripped her and raped her, ignoring her cries of pain. "I said, 'Please, you're hurting me! Please, stop!'" And he started laughing, like it was a game," she said.

Tyson is charged with rape, confinement and criminal deviate conduct in the alleged attack.

Should we demand the Queen pay tax?

Queen Victoria paid tax. So did George V, and George VI. But, because of a little-known case of a rural police station, the Queen does not.

In this week's Sunday Times, Phillip Hall, the veteran royal biographer, provides the most detailed account yet of the monarchy's wealth, its tax history, and the current state of the royal household.

One should read it this Sunday.

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Argentina asks for Europe's overflow

THE European Commission is considering plans to help hundreds of thousands of East European workers settle in Latin America, in an attempt to ease immigration pressure within the Community as economic dislocation spreads across the former eastern bloc.

The underpopulated Latin American countries are keen to take some of the overspill, but they are demanding EC funding of up to £20,000 for each immigrant. Argentina and Uruguay have already submitted proposals to the Commission, and President Menem of Argentina will discuss the issue with Jacques Delors, the president of the Commission, and the European Parliament when he visits Brussels and Strasbourg in two weeks' time.

The Commission finds the plan attractive because it could help diffuse racial tension in the Community, as East European immigration threatens to aggravate the rise of neo-fascist parties, which are already enjoying widespread support in Germany, France and Belgium. The £20,000 demand is based on the amount America paid in recent years to help settle each Soviet Jew in Israel.

The Commission has set up specialist units in Brussels to draft proposals for the mass migration, and Abel Matutes, the Latin American relations commissioner, has been promoting the project since before Christmas. Commission sources say that M. Delors is willing to discuss the proposal seriously with President Menem.

Argentina is the keenest of the countries to welcome immigrants because it has a slow birth rate and is coming out of recession. It could take as many as 100,000 East European workers over the next five years, whom it would try to settle in remote regions such as the Patagonian pampas. The Argentine government would want EC help to set up businesses for the East Europeans, but officials said that the £20,000 figure was misleading and they may not need so much money.

Diego Gualtieri, the Argentine ambassador to the EC, said yesterday: "The problem at the moment for the Community is the North African

The EC is considering a plan to send Eastern European immigrants to warmer climates, writes Tom Walker

immigrant population and the rise of rightist parties, and this has helped to hide the East European issue. But this will become the central problem in the future, and the EC will need a menu of solutions.

Ours is a good one."

The ambassador is a fourth-generation Roman. "Argentina has always supported this sort of immigration," he said. One million East Europeans, many of them Jews, emigrated there before and after the two world wars.

The Commission has also received approaches about immigrants from Chile, Paraguay and Venezuela. Reports from Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, said last week that

the government may send teams to Eastern Europe to target the workers it needs most. A spokesman for Senior Mantes said all the countries were looking for "middle-ranking workers who are technically skilled" and that the process would be "very selective".

An Argentine delegate said his government had already identified Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania as potentially fruitful countries for recruitment. "We're looking at minority populations with uncertain futures," he said.

The looming EC immigration problem has been highlighted by a new Commission survey of attitudes in central and Eastern Europe, which found that 8 per cent of those polled wished either "probably" or "definitely" to go to Western Europe. If such a move took place, the EC would have to cope with an influx of 13 million people.

Lipsticks and lyrics beat the Treasury forecasters

BY JAMIE DEITTMER

SINCE 1989 there has been a theory that recessions and booms can be predicted by two key economic indices — pop songs and lipstick. Months before the current recession a social psychologist from Columbia University and the chairman of the New York store Bloomingdale's knew exactly what was around the corner.

Harold Zullo, a research fellow at Columbia University, could see a stomp looming through the lyrics of the top 100 songs of 1989. Marvin Taub, the chairman of Bloomingdale's, told a prime-time television audience that he was convinced a long downturn was on its way because the store's lipstick sales were rising rapidly. Lipstick sales are still weak.

In all Mr Zullo and his team analysed 1,344 songs. In 1989, he found the Young Cannibals' song "Good Thing" ruminated about something bad. George Michael's "Praying for Time" was equally gloomy, with



Michael Jackson gloomily praying for time

lines like, "It's hard to love, there's so much to hate, hanging on to hope."

As the hit songs of 1989 and early 1990 continued in their gloomy vein, most of the American economic pundits were saying that the economy would expand well into 1993. Is there light at the end of the tunnel now? Mr Zullo says the optimism level of songs is still weak.

In Britain, there were a few bright sparks who also believed a recession was on its way before it was apparent to many in the City. At the press relations firm Ogilvy and Mather, now called Ogilvy, Adams and Reinhardt, account executives noticed in the late eighties the sudden appearance of new magazines devoted to traditional furnishings. The magazines' theme was nesting and they seemed to urge readers to hibernate. These magazines are still doing well.

Where does this leave the Treasury? Maybe Whitehall should forget M0 and M1 and just keep listening to U2. The bad news is that neither Mr Zullo nor the Bloomingdale's chairman can see an end to the recession.

Mr Zullo and a research team analysed popular songs since the second world war and found that a year or two

before recessions started lyrics became pessimistic and that a year or two before an upturn came songwriters turned out upbeat words.

The outlook in songs and other popular culture may be contagious, reinforcing cheer or gloom in people," Mr Zullo said. "The songs may spread pessimism."

In all Mr Zullo and his team analysed 1,344 songs. In 1989, he found the Young Cannibals' song "Good Thing" ruminated about something bad. George Michael's "Praying for Time" was equally gloomy, with

lines like, "It's hard to love, there's so much to hate, hanging on to hope."

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Marking a close encounter

BY ROBIN YOUNG

LIVINGSTON: The world's first monument to a UFO visit was unveiled yesterday on a Scottish hillside. The 30ft spaceship reportedly hovered and released two silver balls which overpowered a forestry worker and tore off his clothes in a cloud of foul smoke. Livingston Development Corporation marked the episode with a plaque at Dechmont Law, West Lothian.

Easing up

TOYOTA: The average Japanese put in 2,016 hours at work in 1991, down two per cent from the previous year. The American average was 1,957.

Worn out

NICOSIA: Two Lebanese were sentenced to jail for smearing heroin they had soaked into their clothes. (AFP)

Long wait

STOCKHOLM: Archaeologist Roger Blidmo, caught in a traffic jam, realised that road improvement excavations had uncovered a 2,500 years old village. (AP)

Cutting back on the bridegroom's suit

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE average cost of a wedding is now £9,444, eight per cent more than a year ago, according to a survey carried out by *You and Your Wedding Magazine*. The survey asked 1,426 brides-to-be how much their families were planning to spend on the nuptials, and found that for 24 out of 28 listed items the brides estimated that they would be spending more than those who married a year ago.

While some reception venues were entered as costing no more than £5, others were up to £14,000. Catering bills were expected to total anything from £50 to £6,000.

Costs were more sharply increased in the south (up by 11 per cent to an average £10,526) than the Midlands (up six per cent to £8,086) and the north (up 4.5 per cent to £8,462), though reception venues were expected to be more than a fifth cheaper in the south than the north.

The Caribbean overtook the United Kingdom and Channel Islands as the most popular honeymoon destination. Seven eighths of the brides said they planned to wear a traditional wedding dress. Fewer than half the weddings were to be paid for by the bride's father.

You and Your Wedding, Spring 1992, £2.50.

My kind of town says Muti

Riccardo Muti, who is leaving the Philadelphia Orchestra after 12 years as music director, showed mixed feelings about the city at a farewell dinner. He criticised its fascination with personality: "You talk about my lack of smile, the cold fish, the hair, my shampoo". But he added: "I love Philadelphia. I gave it the best years of my life. I'm going back to Europe in ruin." He is returning to Italy as music director of La Scala.

Former National Security Council aide Oliver North wants continued permission to carry a concealed weapon because of death threats from Middle East terrorists. In papers filed in Virginia, North said the terrorist Abu Nidal targeted him for assassination in April 1986. North is now president of Guardian Technologies, a bullet-proof vest manufacturer.

The recession has claimed another victim — the 70's Eurovision song Contest star Clodagh Rodgers. Her hit song *The Party's Over* rings true in Paignton, Devon, where the bank has put Clodagh's Wine Bar on the market at £110,000.

The Italian embassy in Tokyo has suspended former cabinet minister Fumio Abe, aged 69, as honorary consul following his arrest for alleged bribery. Abe, confidant of prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was arrested on suspicion of taking bribes as head of the Hokkaido Development Agency.

Mother Teresa's doctors say the 81-year-old missionary appears to be thriving in her recovery from pneumonia and related cardiac problems. She underwent a treadmill exercise in San Diego, California, to test the strength of her cardiovascular system and hopes to leave for Rome on Sunday for a meeting with Pope John Paul II.

No-one takes off more.

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Travelling hopefully: Albanian girls line up for the country's first beauty contest. First prize is a European holiday

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Give the Scots their money

Their own currency would mean freedom, Nicholas Ridley says

The poll published on Tuesday in *The Scotsman* showed that 50% of Scots now want independence and only 27% want devolution. While a single poll must not be taken too seriously, it will come as a blow to all three main political parties. The Labour party and the Liberal Democrats have been trying to buy off Scottish opinion with talk of devolution, which in my opinion is a pointless exercise because it does not offer a solution to the Scottish problem. The Tories have been right to reject devolution, and to face the Scots with the alternatives of status quo or independence, never thinking they would choose the latter. Unfortunately, if forced to choose, the Scots are clearly moving heavily towards independence, the reverse of the expected.

It is hard for Englishmen to comprehend exactly what are the reasons for Scottish discontent. They dislike being run from England; they want to decide things for themselves. Their economy is always that bit behind the English one: wages tend to be lower, and unemployment higher. They seem to feel the English both make them poor and treat them as poor relations.

There is little to be gained from labouring on the arguments on the other side. Some £2.5 billion is transferred from England to Scotland every year; the Scots standard of living is among the highest in the United Kingdom; their public services are more lavish than those of the English. The English think Scotland benefits from the Union; but these arguments cut no ice north of the border.

Scotland is a classic example of what happens when there is a single currency between two unequal partners. Scotland is unlikely ever to be as prosperous as the south east of England — its costs are higher, its distances from the centre are greater, and it is much more sparsely populated. So the Scottish economy can never quite keep up with the English pound.

In order to bridge the gap, grants of £2.5 billion are paid annually to Scotland from the exchequer. These grants are seen as both patronising and inadequate by the Scots; at the same time they are a source of irritation to the English. The mood of alienation sets in; the Scottish people's thoughts turn to separation. "Devolution" is put forward as a compromise but ultimately it cannot satisfy either side, as is so often the case with compromises. The Labour party desperately wants devolution to stick as a solution — or else they lose 50 Scottish seats at Westminster.

The answer, if answer there has to be, is to give Scotland its own currency. The Scottish pound, once floated, would find a level vis-à-vis the English pound at which the Scots would price themselves into their markets; they would then regain full employment, and

their political grievance would evaporate. There would be no more need for grants from England, or anywhere else. Being an inventive, hard-working and entrepreneurial people at heart they might even prosper enough to overtake the English standard of living. Freedom of movement of capital, labour and goods and services would remain all essential ingredients for economic success. They are all enshrined in the Treaty of Rome.

It is curious that the Scottish National Party has never put forward the idea of ending the single currency between England and Scotland. In truth, it gives them all the essentials of what they want, without all the messy arrangements that follow from trying to settle the problem politically rather than economically.

Indeed the SNP compounds its folly by advocating an independent Scotland, which would be a member of the European single currency. Thus they would have the trappings of independence, while ensuring that Scotland was

dependent on Brussels, through having to maintain its currency at a certain arbitrary parity. They would only escape from the domination of the English pound in order to find their economy dominated by the Deutschmark.

Like the English, the Scots are offering to put the value of their currency above their own national interests.

Thus, what the Scottish Nationalist Party is arguing for does not produce the results its members want.

I realise, of course, the consequences of giving Scotland the management of its own currency. It would need its own central bank and its own finance minister, and its own budget. Political accountability would require that it had its own parliament — to which the finance minister would be accountable. In effect, it gives Scotland a high degree of independence.

There are many arguments against a Scottish currency. It breaks up the Union — and Tories insist that they belong to the Conservative and Unionist party. Scotland is a small country; some would say too small to run its own currency. Yet Finland, Ireland and Iceland are all examples of small countries that do. Perhaps the extent of the change involved makes it an enormous undertaking. I merely offer the idea to Tories who wish to be rid of the English subsidies to Scotland, and the ungrateful electoral response that they get from them.

The last point to make is that this whole subject points up the lack of wisdom of Britain getting involved in a single European currency. If we cannot make the English and Scottish single currency work without alienation and tension, how can we contemplate locking ourselves into a similar vis-à-vis with Germany? It is a perfect example of the evils that flow from imposing a single currency on diverging economies.

Imagine the Queen opening her speech in Parliament with a couple of jokes about her digestion, professionally crafted by a television gag writer. Imagine then that a sizeable number of citizens watched the address on a channel that mocked her and festooned the screen around with satirical clips from newscasts. Such was the carnival atmosphere that surrounded Mr Bush's appearance before Congress to pronounce on the State of the Union this week.

Yes, the president is a politician, but there was something extraordinarily jarring about his jokes and the live broadcast of his speech by the 24-hour Comedy Channel, complete with commentary from a team of experts, including a manicurist, a psychic and a gastro-enterologist. The production was a good measure of America's ever-growing urge to turn everything into vicarious entertainment.

The titillation of recent days has come thick and fast. Viewers could wach, for example, Jeffrey Dahmer, America's latest television star and a confessed serial killer who ate his victims, enjoying a little chuckle as his lawyers waved a newspaper headline in the courtroom: "Milwaukee Cannibal Eats His Comelate". The lawyer was trying to convince a court of Dahmer's insanity.

So much seamy, lurid and grisly reality has come to entertain the populace in recent weeks that the steamiest fictions can hardly compete with the facts. Mr Dahmer's trial, held in one of the 40 states which allows cameras in court, is being broadcast live by Court TV, the new network that hit the big time with the Kennedy-Smith trial

in Palm Beach. A channel change took viewers to the Florida court in which a jury decided to send Aileen Wuornos, the "Dame of Death" who was convicted of killing six men, to the electric chair. For sex and vengeance in the suburbs, New York is offering the trial of Carolyn Warmus, a schoolteacher accused of murdering her lover's wife. In Indianapolis, the stage is set for a ramble through the sexual escapades of Mike Tyson, though the show value is severely diminished by a local ban on televising trials. For lighter relief next week, a Texas civil court will dredge through the lesbian life of Martina Navratilova.

Accompanying this judicial theatre, a genre which exploded with

the Clarence Thomas hearings last October, is the Bill and Hillary Clinton show, a soap opera in many parts. In the latest episode, Governor Mario Cuomo of New York grudgingly accepted Governor Bill Clinton's apology for calling him a "mean son-of-a-bitch" and a "mafioso" in a private telephone call to Gennifer Flowers, his putative paramour.

The feast of shock sound bites and sex-laden video-clips is upsetting some older Americans. "I'm worried about it," President Bush said the other day. "Worried about so much filth and indecent material coming through the airwaves and into people's homes." A Washington Post commentary called the Clintons' show "the latest step in the degradation of

democracy by television image-making." All kinds of theories are being offered to explain the collective lurch towards voyeurism. The *Chicago Tribune* likened the mood to the gleeful enthusiasm of spectators at a car crash.

The marriage of intrusive new technology and a shift in the moral tide has created a belief in the public's right to know, relish and pronounce on everything instantly. The permissiveness of the 1960s and 1970s has fused with television and the old American puritan instinct to produce a toxic wave of hypocrisy. With no moral framework to impose limits but a general mood of prurient censoriousness prevailing, the natural result is an orgy of ogling.

Future historians, the *Chicago Tribune* observed this week, will write that "the Americans of the 1990s rediscovered the judgmental attitudes commonly associated with the era of the British Queen Victoria".

Charles Bremner on America's prurient fascination with televised scandal

Values of the voyeur

David Lipsey warns that a ban on fox-hunting will damage point-to-pointing

Subsidies are seen as both patronising and inadequate by Scots, and irritating by the English

Forget Royal Ascot, a fashion parade for toffs. Stuff Cheltenham, a booze-up and bet-in for the population of the Emerald Isle. For the essence of racing, neither can touch the humble point-to-point.

The season is due to open at Tewkesbury, near Aldershot, Hampshire, today, and wends its way through the villages and farms of old England to its conclusion at Torrington Farmers at Ufford, Devon, in June. This is amateur sport at its best. Jockeys are unpaid, stewards local, the organisation is voluntary and the facilities are invariably rudimentary. Maximum prize money for a winner is £250, lower in real terms than it was in 1884. Even the bookmakers are often amateurs, on occasion offering odds that would enable the canny punter to back every horse in the race and still win.

The imperfections that go with amateurism give point-to-point its character. Form-books for professional meetings do not include the abbreviation "RFO", used in the point-to-point bible, Mackenzie and Selby's *Hunter Chasers and Point-to-Pointers*, to signify "rider fell off". On a proper racecourse you would not expect an incident such as that at South Teign, Devon, last year when a loose greyhound joined the race: Mackenzie and Selby award it "second place — open class", but say the owner should be warned off for letting it loose. In several races, the judge called the wrong winner.

Every meeting has its character. The mixed crowd that braves the frozen wind at Flage Moor in the Peak District could not be more different from the Horrocks Henrys, swigging Mott by the magnum from the car boot who monopolise the May meeting at Peper Harow, Surrey. Farmers' meetings, military meetings, university meetings (for Oxford and Cambridge); all are different but all are part of the rural English tradition.

The last point to make is that this whole subject points up the lack of wisdom of Britain getting involved in a single European currency. If we cannot make the English and Scottish single currency work without alienation and tension, how can we contemplate locking ourselves into a similar vis-à-vis with Germany? It is a perfect example of the evils that flow from imposing a single currency on diverging economies.

Yet this is not a tradition in

dividing hunting to sustain, those who now

A point for the amateur



Under threat Oldbury church, Gloucestershire, provides a traditional backdrop to a day's racing at a point-to-point meeting

more popular. A Jockey Club survey suggests that 400,000 people attend a point-to-point each year, and 25,000 have been reported at some bank holiday meetings. This year, 103 meetings are scheduled. All this is now under threat. No one, including the League against Cruel Sports, wants to ban point-to-pointing. But many people want to ban hunting. Kevin Macnamara's bill to outlaw hunting will have its second reading in the Commons this month. Last Wednesday's launch of a new pro-hunting campaign demonstrates the mounting concern among the men in pink coats that anti-hunting legislation is increasingly likely.

The present structure of point-to-point racing is intimately interwoven with that of hunting. Points are run by hunts to raise funds. Hunts do the organising, lend their names, and persuade farmers to allow their fields to be used as courses. If there were no hunting to sustain, those who now

organise points would lose part of their motivation. Such voluntary structures are not easily replaced.

The very rules of point-to-pointing are tied in with hunting. The definition of a horse eligible to run in a point-to-point is one that has a certificate signed by the master of the hunt to show that it has been "regularly and fairly hunted".

Without this limit, race horses

owned and trained by professionals

would tend to steal the show.

Race entry limits are largely defined by the nearby hunt.

Ending hunting would require a fundamental rethink. Many believe that its demise would mean point-to-pointing's demise too. Traditional though point-to-pointing is, it has shown a capacity to adjust to the times. Though now the epitome of Englishness, it appears to have originated in the United States: one of the first laws passed by Jamestown Council in Virginia was to "prohibit point-to-point

racing in the streets."

The first English point was not held until 1790 or 1792, depending on which reference book you believe, when Sir Charles Meynell, Sir Gilbert Heathcote and Lord Forster raced each other over eight Leicestershire miles for a purse of a 100 guineas a man. Point-to-pointing began as a race from one church steeple (or "point") to another. Now it is conducted on something more akin to a conventional steeplechase course. It began as a contest between hunts. Now the vast majority of the equine participants are thoroughbreds, and it is cause for comment when even the best hunt finishes ahead of even the most ardent of thoroughbred jades. Some masters of foxhounds are notoriously willing to nod through any thoroughbred that turns up at a meet.

If the hunting of live animals is banned, many hunts will go over to following an artificial scent. Drag-hound hunts following this practice already exist. They stage

...and moreover



PHILIP HOWARD

Apun my word, a pun is a pungent disappointment to many punters. It gets dismissed as a childish form of wordplay, particularly by those who can neither make puns nor understand them. The great and gloomy grouch at puns, Addison put down the pun in *The Spectator* as false wit and a silly jingle. In *The Dunciad*, Pope ascribed it to a "great critic" he had that, "He that would pun would pick a pocket. (Pope himself was, of course, an incorrigible piffluster.)

And yet the pun has a long and eminent pedigree. The orators at Delphi and other ancient oracles wrote and sibyls prophesied in puns; their riddling ambiguity made their predictions come out right, whatever happened. The Christian church is founded upon the rock of a pun. Hamlet came up with a pun in the most dire and depressing situations, from grave digging to murder. Just as there are at least seven kinds of ambiguity in poetry, there are puns echoing like squash-balls bouncing off the back wall when Milton writes about Satan's rout or talks about a lape.

More surprisingly, Dr Johnson enjoyed puns. You think of the 18th century, with its taste for classical order and rationality, being above such childish wordplay. Sam was talking about John Campbell, the talented contemporary hack, and mentioned that he had married a printer's devil. Reynolds: "A printer's devil, sir? Why, I thought a printer's devil was a

creature with a black face and in rags." Johnson: "Yes, sir. But I suppose he had his face washed, and put clean clothes on her." (Then looking very serious and very earnest.) "And she did not disgrace him — the woman had a bottom of good sense." Everyone tittered at the solemn pun on bottom, Johnson, who hated being made a fool of, glowered around, and called out in a strong tone: "Where's the merriment?" Then searching for a still more judicious pun, he slowly pronounced: "I say the woman was fundamentally sensible" as if he had said, "hear this now, and laugh if you dare." "We all sat composed as at a funeral."

The pun is alive and well in its various manifestations, from the literary to the demoiselle art of graffiti and the *double entendre* of professor Frankie Howard. James Joyce lived by the pun, from his haunting tetralogy of *S芬子*, *Ulysses*, *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*, and *Finnegans Wake*. Shakespearian, *Scudodante*, *Anonymoses*, suggesting corruption in the heart of beauty, to the fleshpots of *Euston* and the hanging garments of *Marybone*, echoing the fleshpots of *Babylon*, and encapsulating the waste land of modern urban civilisation in a line.

Sub-editors writing headlines love puns, though some readers are irritated by them. Sitting all day in front of a computer screen, rewriting and cutting other people's copy, and fitting headlines into spaces that can take only an absurdly small number of letters, is demanding



Irish Dail at Richmond-upon-Thames rugby club, Tony MP Humphrey Mullins, who played for Richmond, captains the British side. They will be hard pushed to beat the Irish team, which boasts two former internationals and Frank Fahey, the sports minister.

Write off

A RELATIVE of Dame Millicent Fawcett, the women's rights campaigner, has repaid the family's 75-year-old debt to Romania. As Dame Millicent, one of the suffragettes, was marching for the vote, her niece, Margaret, a medical auxiliary, went to Romania in 1916 to help the British allies. While she was there she stole a cooking pot from an empty house and brought it back to England. The theft came to light only when Margaret's daughter, Dr Audrey Cahill, of Natal University, came to Britain recently to research her mother's diaries.

She came across one entry, in a diary written by a colleague of her mother's, which said: "Fawcett and I had made up our minds to procure, even at a fabulous price, one of those jolly Romanian pots. The men were stealing everything, and we didn't want the Bulgars to get them." With that Dr Cahill sent a cheque to the Save the Children appeal for Romania.

Board coup

EVEN the "Monopoly" board has succumbed to moves towards closer European integration. Waddingtons is launching an EC version of the game this summer. Park Lane will nestle alongside the likes of the Champs-Elysées.

But to the horror of the anti-federalists the British addresses have been demoted to fourth place in the property pecking order. The premier dark blue square goes to Germany, the green to France. It

begins at a pithead, at

Hickleton colliery near Doncaster.

The opera, with miners in the chorus, is being written by Karen Whinburn, who has moved into

the village for inspiration.

It will mark the 50th anniversary of the Great Barnsborough pit rescue,

during which 70 miners who had

been trapped underground for

four days were saved.

David Beresford, a native of the

village, who will film the opera,

says: "One of the performers was

part of the rescue team. He is now

almost 70."

Whinburn's last opera, *A Requiem to Lockerbie*, reduced many of the audience to tears at last year's Edinburgh festival.

Left turn

THE INTELLECTUAL forces of the left are regrouping in a new research institute set up by Jenny Jeger. Her mother, Lady Jeger, has been one of the Labour party's leading women figures for 40 years.

Jeger formed the group, Demos, with Martin Jacques, former editor of *Marxism Today*.

It holds its first seminar next week at the Royal Geographical Society in conjunction with the Goethe Institute. Jeger says: "We will work with any political party except the Conservatives. There is a gap in the market." The group will hold its second public discussion later this month with a more unlikely bedfellow: the free market Institute of Economic Affairs, widely credited with creating the Citizen's Charter.

Miner classic

A YORKSHIRE coal mine is the last place you would expect to go to the opera. But English National Opera is sponsoring its first



NEW LIFE FOR THE UN

The United Nations Security Council summoned no surprises nor any document that went beyond the bland phrases acceptable to countries with widely differing interests. Yet it was still an important occasion, not just for being the first such summit, but because it raised issues that must be resolved if the UN's post-Gulf momentum is to be maintained.

The end of the Cold War has, for the first time since 1945, given the UN a chance to fulfil its raison d'être of peace-keeping and peace-making. To do so, it must be reinvigorated. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the new secretary general, has been asked to draw up a report on how his office can be better used to prevent conflict, alert the world to potential danger and speed up UN intervention.

He must avoid the supine passivity adopted by all his predecessors since the Congo civil war. He needs new powers. He already has full authority to refer to the security council developments that threaten peace — but the power has been used only three times since 1945. In turn the military staff committee of the security council, no longer held hostage to Cold War rivalry, should begin to function as a hot line to the secretary general, as Mikhail Gorbachev suggested in 1987.

Peace-keeping must remain primarily the secretary general's responsibility. Operational control should not be returned to the 15 member countries because decisions on the financing and deployment of UN forces cannot easily be made by committee.

Peace-making is different. This demands a more active, pre-emptive diplomatic role for the UN, which until now has been sadly reluctant to do anything to prevent conflict. The UN must not just pick up the pieces afterwards. It must, as it is now preparing to do in Cambodia and Yugoslavia, remain in place even if one or other side withdraws its consent, and compel compliance with agreements even if this means shooting. Pre-emptive diplomacy does not need extra intelligence or a UN diplomatic service, only the active co-operation of member states.

FOOD FOR INVESTIGATION

Do British supermarkets cheat their customers? Are food prices kept high by monopoly practices? Or is competition too fierce to allow overpricing, as the food chains claim? Sir Bryan Carsberg, soon to be director general of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), says he is tempted to investigate once he moves into his new job.

An investigation by *The Sunday Times* last year seemed to provide prima facie evidence that groceries in Britain were more expensive than in America and most European countries. The supermarket chains retaliated. Using another basis of calculation, they claimed British prices were in line with those abroad. Like most statistical arguments, this one cannot be resolved. What is clear is that British profit margins of 5-7 per cent dwarf the 2 per cent earned by most supermarkets on the Continent.

The supermarket chains say that in Britain, selling food is a capital-intensive business. Vast out-of-town supermarkets cost a lot to build: the big five, Tesco, Sainsbury, Asda, Safeway and Gateway, spent over £2 billion on giant stores last year. To earn a return on that capital, they need to make profits. In the rest of Europe, by contrast, legislation on land use and opening hours is generally much more restrictive, to protect the small shopkeeper. Supermarkets tend to work from smaller, cheaper sites.

Companies such as Sainsbury and Tesco claim that the consumer has been well served by their expansion. Out-of-town stores are popular with shoppers; they stock such a huge range of products that a whole week's shopping can be done under one roof. People should be prepared to pay a little extra for that convenience — presumably whether or not they are offered a realistic choice.

Foreign companies are now moving to exploit the obvious opportunity, aiming at the profitable underbelly of Britain's big five groups. Discount chains such as Aldi from

Disarmament, the third area to be highlighted by yesterday's declaration, is part of international security. But it is not best handled by the UN. Too much time has been wasted on futile proposals for world nuclear disarmament, and too little attention paid to the conventional arms race in third world countries. Nuclear arms reductions are best negotiated between the nuclear powers; while the threat of a cut-off in aid to nations wasting money on weapons is the best way to alter Third World priorities.

Significantly, yesterday's document had little to say about the basic UN structure. This is sensible. Too much time was wasted in the 1960s and 1970s trying to agree the way the UN was run instead of carrying out the tasks for which it was created. But one question cannot be avoided: which countries should be permanently represented on the security council?

Critics maintain that the wartime victors do not represent the main powers in the world today. They are pressing for change, and Japan has begun an unusually assertive campaign. Britain and France are the obvious targets, and there are strong suspicions that Mr Major was in a hurry to confirm Russia as the successor to the Soviet Union precisely because he wanted to avoid discussion of the issue.

Britain argues with some plausibility that British and French history and political attitudes still give them greater leverage and readiness to intervene to keep the peace than Japan and Germany, constrained by constitutions and inexperience. But today's challenges are economic as much as military. The UN can only pre-empt conflict or enforce peace if it has the money. As the Japanese argue, even among the big powers there must be no taxation without representation. However much Britain and France claim they represent Europe, they must be prepared for challenge to their seas.

For the moment, this should not be a priority. Getting the United Nations functioning as its founders intended is the real challenge. That was the usefulness of the meeting Britain convened yesterday.

PRINCELY CANDOUR

When a public figure uses such words as soul, spirit, cosmos and God, the audience shifts nervously from foot to foot, looks embarrassed and mutters about a sad loosening of screws. When the public figure is the heir to the throne, the muttering grows to concern for the future of monarchy and the stability of the body politic. Yesterday Prince Charles looked an audience firmly in the eye and challenged it to mutter its worst.

He ruminated in public on why it was he had come to hold the decided views he does on nature, the environment and architecture. Why had he been immune to the "missionary zeal" of mechanistic postwar planning? Why had he disagreed with sweeping away anything that had outlived its physical usefulness? Why had he felt so strongly about architecture as to take the daring step of setting up an institute of architecture in his own name? Why did he court ridicule?

The answer, he said in a speech that was reportedly all his own, lay deep in his belief that for all the advances of science "there remains deep in the soul (if I dare use that word) a persistent and unconscious anxiety that something is missing, some ingredient that makes life worth living". This ingredient was present in the classical blend of matter and spirit. Architecture has always been the most concrete way of expressing this blend, but it must be "an architecture of the heart". That architecture, he said, must include "the delicate thread of wisdom that connects us with our forefathers" and "humility in how to observe nature".

Prince Charles is not particularly novel in his thoughts and often slides into cliché. He puts abstract nouns in a scattergun, and badly needs a court sub-editor. But as against the vapid, often incomprehensible, prose of the profession he so often attacks, he is clear as a bell. His targets need no decoding. *Sic hostes requiriunt circumspice.* He will not let up. He invites controversy. But he is careful to avoid party politics and strives, usually successfully, to influence public taste rather than government policy. Prince Charles may sometimes push at the frontier of the constitution, but only the most fastidious purist could seriously object.

To be sure, a man whose status is rooted in heredity can afford to take risks, but all credit to him for doing so. Prince Charles is brave in lending his name and enthusiasm to an architecture school. Given the profession's internecine strife, this is like backing Montagues against Capulets. He is bravest of all in sharing with the nation forms of philosophical speculation that most public figures train themselves to avoid. To the bland world of vague manifestos, mission statements and risk-free interviews, the prince's phraseology is anathema.

Politicians, academics, journalists, even churchmen, have grown nervous of semi-mock, ashamed of revealing the inner self that feeds the outer one. Few ask the questions even in private that Prince Charles asks in public. He reaches parts of the debate others dare not reach. His is a thoroughly refreshing intervention in contemporary affairs.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Museum needed for watercolours

From Dr P. K. Prochaska

Sir, As an American resident in London for over 20 years, it has long struck me as odd that there are so few English watercolours on display in the museums of London. This most national branch of art, in which the English are unsurpassed, rarely gets a look in, apart from Constable and Turner, even in those institutions with glorious collections such as the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. (At present the V&A has a few on display together in a little room adjacent to the Constable collection.)

Protection of conservation must be considered, of course, but is it not a pity that the works of Constance and Gainsborough and De Wint, Sandby and Towne are almost invariably tucked away in drawers, only to be seen by the determined collector or scholar?

How many people have seen the John Vandyke at the V&A? It has 83 of them. When did a member of the public last see one of the 26 Samuel Prout at the British Museum? The brilliant special exhibition at the BM of British landscape watercolours was many years ago now.

Apart from the question of artistic deprivation which results from a lack of public access to such works, there has also been a detectable fossilisation of opinion about the English watercolour. This is reflected in the many books written about them which repeat the same rather commonplace views.

I am not a watercolour expert (nor a dealer or serious collector), but it seems to me likely that such views will persist without a gallery large enough to display a range of works and artists together, which allows the public to note the stylistic changes of individual artists, which often to hang some of the little-known but magnificent pictures still in private collections, and which encourages the many contemporary exponents of this distinctive form of artistic expression.

In recent years London has seen a flowering of new galleries to celebrate one thing after another, from the omnibus to the moving image. It is outlandish to suggest the establishment of a museum in the capital specifically dedicated to the English watercolour?

Yours etc,
F. K. PROCHASKA,
9 Addison Bridge Place, W14.
January 29.

Gallery restriction

From Mr Wilf Weeks

Sir, I can assure Mrs Irene Rooney (letter, January 21) that the decision to suspend Sunday morning openings for the Friends of the Tate was not taken lightly. Sunday opening, despite extensive publicity, was taken up by only a small and dwindling number and it was increasingly difficult to justify the costs.

As an alternative the Friends have introduced an open evening on the last Thursday of each month, which has proved popular and well attended. When the Sunday closure was announced at last year's annual general meeting a commitment to review the decision was also made. The views of our membership will be fully taken into account.

Yours faithfully,
WILF WEEKS (Chairman),
Friends of the Tate Gallery,
Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1.

Sullivan and Gilbert

From Mr Robert Hardcastle

Sir, Next time Mr Woodward (letter, January 29) walks along the Embankment let him look at the south wall near Hungerford Bridge. There he will find a memorial to W. S. Gilbert, placed there "quietly and without ceremony" by a group of his friends in 1915.

It takes the form of a large medallion by Sir George Frampton, RA, among whose other works in London are the statues of Edith Cavell and of Peter Pan. The inscription, suggested by Anthony Hope, author of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, is no less relevant today than it was then: "His foie was folly, and his weapon wiz."

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HARDCASTLE,
Lawn Cottages, Camden Park,
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
January 29.

Marked post-boxes

From Mr J. G. Riddall

Sir, I note that the Royal Mail post box in our village, with its handsome scarlet and gold livery, has been defaced by having two yellow lines painted across the front of it.

I learn that the vandal responsible is the Post Office: the purpose of the disfigurement, in some regional trials, is to show that the box is emptied on Sundays. Could not some other way of imparting this information have been found?

Yours faithfully,
J. G. RIDDALL,
Hills View Cottages,
Far Hill, Bradwell,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
January 27.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Targets for teaching art and music

From the Chairman of the National Curriculum Council

Sir, Now that the secretary of state has supported the recommendations of the National Curriculum Council in the draft orders for art, music and physical education (report, January 28) I should like to comment on some of the points made by your correspondents (January 24).

NCC did in fact welcome the reports of the working groups on art and music as a major contribution to the cultural development of pupils as required by the Education Reform Act. It is true that we strengthened the requirements in knowledge and understanding to ensure that pupils appreciate both our diverse cultural heritage and a variety of other traditions. We felt, as the independent council set up to advise ministers, that it was important in a national curriculum that these areas are made explicit and not left implicit as in the stable collection.

Problems of conservation must be considered, of course, but is it not a pity that the works of Constance and Gainsborough and De Wint, Sandby and Towne are almost invariably tucked away in drawers, only to be seen by the determined collector or scholar?

This does not mean that our proposals are dominated by Western classical influences. In our view, children should understand their cultural heritage not only in terms of the classical tradition but also through to the present day. Certainly they should appreciate other traditions, but they should know the difference between the two.

We did not include any composers or artists by name in the proposed statutory requirements, contrary to the impression given by some press reports. We did include a number of examples intended to give teachers an indication of the range of major

figures which they could use in bringing the curriculum to life.

The other change we made was to propose a structure based on two rather than three attainment targets. We have drawn from experiences in other subjects in order to ensure that whilst retaining curriculum coherence, the proposals are as simple and practicable as possible, particularly for primary schools.

It is not our intention to separate musical and artistic education into practical and theoretical components. We have emphasised the integrated nature of the music and art curriculum as a whole and our proposals retain all the elements proposed by the working groups. I have repeatedly stated that we would expect teachers to give greater emphasis to practical aspects and that knowledge and understanding coupled with listening and appraising in music and visual literacy in art enhance and complement practical activities. I am pleased to see that the secretary of state supported this view in his comments.

The introduction of a national curriculum for art and music is a tremendously exciting development which will benefit all our children. I hope that these comments will reassure those who have expressed concerns about our proposals.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PASCALL,
Chairman,
National Curriculum Council,
Albion Wharf, 25 Skeldergate, York.
January 28.

Better provision for child care

From the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group and others

Sir, In the forthcoming Budget neither the possible extension of tax relief in all forms of help with child care from employers (report, January 24) nor the introduction of tax relief for child-care expenses (report, January 20) would help most of the families we work with and for.

The mothers in these families, if they are in employment, do not tend to work for the kind of employers who provide child-care subsidies. And often they do not earn enough to pay tax, so would get no benefit from tax relief.

What these families need is good-quality, low-cost child care, whether or not the parent(s) go out to work. Individual tax reliefs cannot guarantee either to increase or to improve child-care provision. More public investment could guarantee both.

We believe that child care should not be seen solely as a help to women in employment. Any Budget measures in this area should also, crucially, be judged on how well they meet the needs of children, especially those from low-income families.

Yours faithfully,
FRAN BENNETT, Director,
Child Poverty Action Group,
CHRISTOPHER BROWN
Director, NSPCC,
ORIOLE GOLDSMITH
UK Director, Save the Children Fund,
ADAH KAY
Director, Family Service Units,
JOHN REA PRICE (Director,
National Children's Bureau),
IAN SPARKS
Director, The Children's Society,
Child Poverty Action Group,
4th floor, 1-5 Bath Street, EC1.
January 28.

Arabic and science

From Mr Muazzam Ali

Sir, Your report of "increasing pressure on Arab universities to teach all courses only in Arabic" (details, January 22). If the Chinese, Japanese, Russians, Italians, Spanish, French, Germans and many other nations of the world can impart education in science and technology in their own language, why should anyone be upset over the Arabs' desire to adopt their mother tongue for teaching?

It is true that until recently "scientific subjects in most of the 20 member-states of the Arab League were taught in English or French", but it was due to the fact that those states were under the colonial domination of Britain and France.

For the advancement of learning, whether in art or science, education must be imparted in the language of the people.

Yours faithfully,
MUAZZAM ALI (Chairman),
International Centre for
Islamic Studies,
144-146 King's Cross Road, WC1.
January 22.

Tug of war plea

From Mr Brian M. Pitts

Sir, The Director of the Royal Tournament's plea for tug of war to be restored to the Olympic Games (letter, January 25) raises interesting points about its history.

Its inclusion in six Olympiads, between 1900 and 1920, was not without controversy. According to the Olympic historian David Wallechinsky, the American tug of war team withdrew from the competition at the 1908 Games, in London, after being beaten by Liverpool Police, who were representing Britain.

The Americans claimed the police had cheated by using illegal footwear, complete with metal spikes and heels. But their protest was rejected by the judges, who accepted that the British bobbies had been wearing standard issue police boots, which could hardly have been unlawful.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN M. PITTS,
29 Priory Gardens, Highgate, N6.
January 25.

Moral climate

From Mr Philip White

Sir, Ms Christine Peach objects (letter, January 29) to your use of the word "fallen" to describe a young woman as it seems to her inappropriate "in today's moral climate". Surely she means "in today's immoral climate".

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP WHITE,
8 Stable Court, Welbeck,
Worksop, Nottinghamshire.
January 30.

Preserving the past

From Mr R. F. Edward-Collins

Sir, Your photograph (January 28) of Lambley grade II* listed viaduct leads me to ask by what logic a structure which is of no further use has to be retained when, if it were not there already, its construction today would be opposed by, I suspect, exactly the same people who now support its preservation?

Yours faithfully,
R. F. EDWARD-COLLINS,
Lanwihian, Lostwithiel, Cornwall.
January 28.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 31: The Duke of York, Patron, today received Professor Norman Ashton upon relinquishing his appointment as Chairman of Fight for Sight and Mr Ian Steers upon assuming the appointment.

The Prince Edward, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this afternoon attended a Reception to thank the organisers of the Olympic Torch Appeal at the British Telecom Tower, 1015 Street, London W1.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 31: The Prince of Wales today visited Newstead upon Tyne and was received by Colonel John Dowdell (Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear).

His Royal Highness, Patron, The Prince's Trust and Business in the Community, this morning attended discussions with business leaders and young people involved in the volunteers' programme at Capitol House, Market Street.

The Prince of Wales visited patients at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Queen Victoria Road. His Royal Highness, Patron.

Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund Appeal, this afternoon attended a Luncheon in aid of the Appeal at the Connaught Park Hotel, Wimpole.

Finally, The Prince of Wales visited Peterlee and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Durham (Mr David Grant). His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Youth Business Trust and The Prince's Trust attended meetings and discussions with representatives of these organisations at Aritz, Peterlee.

Miss Belinda Harley and Mr Hugh Merrill were in attendance.

The Prince held a dinner this evening for Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire (Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs), on his retirement.

YORK HOUSE

SJAMES'S PALACE

January 31: The Duke of Kent, Colonel of the Scots Guards, this morning attended a Medal Parade and presented Medals to those members of the Scots Guards Band and Regimental Headquarters who served in the Gulf.

Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mrs Jennifer Adams, superintendent, Central Royal Parks, 44; Miss Kate Ashbrook, general manager, Open Spaces, 37; Sir Keith Amis, former vice-chairman, GBC, 72; Major H. Stanley Ayers, 82; Sir Peter Crill, Baillif of Jersey, 67; Mrs Joceline Dumbleby, mystery writer, 49; Professor Sir Sam Edwards, physicist, 64; the Very Rev Eric Evans, Dean of St Paul's, 64; Mr Don Evey, singer, 55; Mr Robert Gittins, poet, biographer and playwright, 81; Sir Douglas Hall, former governor, Somaliland Protectorate, 83; Sir Gordon Hobday, former Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, 76; Professor Douglas Johnson, historian, 67.

Sir Michael Laing, life president, John Laing, 74; Mrs Virginia Leng, three-day eventer, 37; Sir Stanley Matthews, footballer, 77; Lord Mountevans, 49; Sir John Nott, former MP, 60; Professor Sir Michael Richmond, chairman, Science and Engineering Research Council, 61; Mr Peter Sallis, actor, 71; Mrs Muriel Spark, writer, 74; Sir Peter Tapell, MP, 62; Miss Renata Tebaldi, soprano, 70; Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, 61.

TOMORROW: The Right Rev Lord Bland, 74; Mr Roger Brough, chairman, Cadover Investments, 61; the Earl of Clarendon, 59; Sir Macdonald Critchley, neurologist, 92; Mr Andrew Davis, conductor, 48; Mr Les Dawson, comedian, 59; the Rev Dr V. G. D. Elford, former Dean of Canterbury, 81; Robert Douglas, founder, Douglas Group of Companies, 93; Mr Abu Eshai, Israeli politician, 77.

Mr Norman Fosdier, MP, 54; Mr Valery Giscard d'Estaing, former President of France, 66; Mr Hughie Green, broadcaster, 72; Mr H.V. Hayes, former principal, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 66; Mr David Jason, chief executive, Next, 49; Mr Geoffrey Kent, former chairman, Imperial Group, 70; Mr J.C. Kiesewetter, 82; Dame Alice Meyney, former chief servant, 89; Lord Relph, 57; Miss Elaine Stritch, actress, 65.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Sir Edward Coke, jurist and politician, Mileham, Norfolk, 1552; John Kemble, actor-manager, Preston, Lancashire, 1757; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, poet and dramatist, Vienna, 1874; Dame Clara Butt, contralto, Southwick, Sussex, 1873; Louis Saint Laurent, prime minister of Canada 1948-57, Comp-ton, Quebec, 1882.

DEATHS: René Descartes, philosopher, Stockholm, 1650; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, novelist, London, 1851; George Cruikshank, the caricaturist, London, 1878; Pier Mondrian, painter, New York, 1944; Buster Keaton, silent film comedian, Woodland Hills, California, 1966.

The Times published its first crossword, 1930. The USSR was

formally recognised by Britain, 1924.

TOMORROW

GRIFFITH-JONES: On January 30th, in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, and Edward, a son of Phillipa Griffith-Jones.

CARDOON: On January 30th, in Katherine, Nottinghamshire, and Edward, a son of Phillipa Griffith-Jones.

GRIMMITH-JONES: On January 30th, in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, and Edward, a son of Phillipa Griffith-Jones.

WRIGHT: On January 30th, in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, and Edward, a son of Phillipa Griffith-Jones.

MARSHAL: On January 30th, in Christon and Trevor, Northumberland, and Edward, a son of Phillipa Griffith-Jones.

NAISH: On January 30th, in Lindis and Christopher, a daughter, Emily Jane, a daughter for Janet and Timmy.

WRIGHT: On January 30th, in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, and Edward, a son of Phillipa Griffith-Jones.

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OBITUARIES

WILLIE DIXON

Willie Dixon, blues songwriter, arranger, producer and bass player, died of heart failure on January 29 at St Joseph's hospital, Burbank, California aged 76. He was born in Vicksburg, Warren County, on the south-west edge of the Mississippi delta.

OF ALL his protean musical activities Willie Dixon will best be remembered for his spell as the creative backbone at Chess records throughout the label's heyday in the Fifties and early Sixties. There he played a key role in writing, producing and playing on records by Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley among many others. As the composer of songs like "I Just Want To Make Love To You", "Big Boss Man", "You Can't Judge a Book By Its Cover", "Back Door Man", "My Babe" and "Wang Dang Doodle", Dixon provided a wealth of material for the first generation of electric blues musicians.

His songs proved no less significant as an inspiration for the architects of the rock revolution of the Sixties. With simple riffs usually based on nothing more than two or three notes and lyrics spiced with a strange, poetic voodoo, Dixon wrote some of the most memorable songs in the blues idiom. The pounding, stop-start riff of "Hoochie Coochie Man" with its piston-like momentum was probably his best ever and certainly the one that has been most frequently recycled, thanks in no small part to the irresistible swagger of the definitive version by Muddy Waters.

Similarly unforgettable was "Spoonful", a two-note rumble which provided Eric Clapton's group, Cream, with one of its most outstanding tours de force: "You Need Love", which Led Zeppelin turned into a heavy metal mantra and rechristened "Whole Lotta Love"; and the languidly descending three-chord sequence of "Little Red Rooster", with its spooky slide guitar trill, which provided The Rolling Stones with a British No 1 hit in 1964. Dixon's songs were also recorded by The Doors, Jimi Hendrix and Elvis Presley among many others.

"Big" Willie Dixon was the

seventh of 14 children, only seven of whom survived. His mother ran a restaurant in Vicksburg next door to a barbershop where the young Dixon heard all the local blues and boogie musicians play.

Dixon first left home at the age of 11, riding the rails up to Chicago where, ducking and diving, he scraped a meagre living for several years. In his late teens he became a boxer, first winning the Illinois Golden Gloves amateur heavyweight boxing title (as James Dixon) in 1936 and then turning professional the following year and at one time sparring with Joe Louis.

He took up music in his early twenties, learning to play the double bass and performing with groups including The Five Breezes and The Jumps Of Jive. His first successful combo was The Big Three Trio, a blues harp group which started playing club dates in Chicago from 1946, won a recording contract the following year, and remained profitable until splitting up in 1952.

From there he moved to Chess, where he did everything from talent scouting to playing bass in Muddy Waters' band. Proprietor Leonard Chess called him "my right arm".

After leaving Chess, Dixon continued to write, record and work on the live circuit and his Chicago All Stars group became a regular attraction at the jazz and blues festivals of the Sixties and Seventies in Europe and America.

For many years a diabetes sufferer, he went into hospital in Chicago in 1977 with complications caused by the condition. His right leg became gangrenous and had to be amputated above the knee, but once sufficiently recovered he continued to work with panache and vigour.

More recently the majority of his time was spent establishing the Blues Heaven Foundation, a non-profit making organisation with the aim of increasing awareness of the blues. His album *Hidden Charms*, released in 1988, won a Grammy in 1989 for best traditional blues recording.

Willie Dixon is survived by his wife, Marie, and 11 of his 12 children.



MAJ-GEN SIR JOHN BATES

Major-General Sir (Edward) John (Hunter) Bates, KBE, CB, MC, a former commandant of the Royal Military College of Science and later personnel director of Thomson Regional Newspapers, died on January 28 aged 80. He was born on December 5, 1911.

JACK Bates nearly secured a place in history as head of the armed forces' first university. As it was he found himself presiding over a lost cause. The idea of founding a tri-service defence academy arose from the Howard-English report in the 1950s. It would answer once and for all the recurring questions over higher education for officers.

Bates was already commanding the next best thing to it, the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, on which the new Royal Defence Academy would be based. With the backing of Harold Wilson's Labour government, the heads of department were chosen and planning began under Bates the following year, and remained profitable until splitting up in 1952.

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broke out but was posted back to this country in 1940 as adjutant of 156 Field Regiment, newly formed from the Lanarkshire Yeomanry. After Dunkirk, he became a battery commander and ultimately the regiment's second-in-command, before leaving it in 1944 to attend the staff college at Haifa.

During that time he had served in Iran where the regiment helped protect the allied supply route to the Soviet Union. There after regrouping in Sicily, Italy and Germany. It was in Sicily that Major Bates won his MC, directing fire on to some German tanks which were threatening a Royal Scots Fusiliers position.

He was brigade-major of 36 Infantry Brigade in 1945 and in 1952 commanded 39 Heavy Regiment in Tidworth. After a spell as commander Royal Artillery (CRA) of 2 Division in BAOR he became CRA of the 1st British Corps, 1960-61.

In both these jobs he was closely involved in the introduction of nuclear artillery to the Rhine army though in his next posting as Director of the Royal Artillery in London, he also fought hard for the development of better conventional anti-aircraft and anti-tank weapons.

He moved to Shrivenham in 1964 and three years later was picked for the prestigious but short-lived post of commandant of the ill-fated RDA.

In later years he became, among other things, chairman of the council of the Royal United Services Institute, 1976-78, master of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, 1979, and a special commissioner of the Duke of York's Military School, Dover.

He married in 1947 Sheila Ann Norman who survives him with their two sons and two daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Freddie Bartholomew

IT WAS with sadness that I read the obituary (January 25) of Freddie Bartholomew in *The Times*. I would, however, like to congratulate you on the accurate reporting of his early days. The church social you mention was in fact in the village of Sutton Veny, near Warminster, in 1928-29. It was an annual event organised by a committee which included my mother.

The popular performers were usually the Sunday school children, of whom I was one. But there was no more fame for the Sunday school starters with whom Freddie made his debut that evening — the talk of the village was all for the little boy from Warminster! Maybe he recited a poem, as you mention, but he also recited Shakespeare and conducted the entire audience (with an umbrella) in a song called "Let's All Sing the Lord's

Song". In later years I was discussing his voice with a distinguished speech therapist when she suggested that the "haughty voice" you mention was caused by a slight impediment, which she easily explained to me. No way was his fame due only to his "looks and looks". I can vouch that at the age of four he was truly talented.

E. K. B.



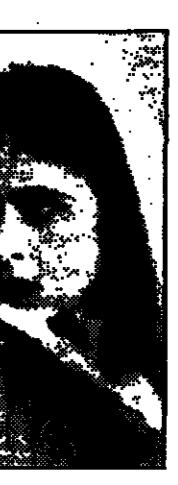
Dame Gwen Frangcon-Davies

IN YOUR obituary of the magnificent Gwen Frangcon-Davies (January 29) you describe her father as "a Welsh choral singer". This is dismissive. He achieved a distinguished reputation. A friend of Elgar, he was a famed interpreter of roles in his oratorios, singing the part of Jesus in the first performances of *The Apostles*.

Alan J. Mably

SHE was truly fantastic! I wrote to her out of the blue to congratulate her on her 100th birthday last year and to remind her of her performance as Tess in a dramatisation of Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* in 1925. As the author, then 85, was unable to travel to London to see the perfor-

mance in person, she took the company to Max Gate, Hardy's home near Dorchester, and performed the play in his drawing-room. In her most gracious reply to my letter she said that "the great man was in tears at the end".



C. J. P. Beatty

IN YOUR obituary of the magnificent Gwen Frangcon-Davies (January 29) you describe her father as "a Welsh choral singer". This is dismissive. He achieved a distinguished reputation. A friend of Elgar, he was a famed interpreter of roles in his oratorios, singing the part of Jesus in the first performances of *The Apostles*.

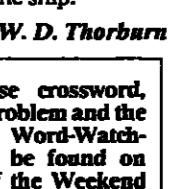
Admiral Luigi de La Penne

FURTHER to the excellent obituary (January 21) on Admiral de La Penne, one reason for the respect, and admiration accorded to him by friend and foe alike was his evident humanity as well as his undoubted bravery.

That fatal night when as a young sub-lieutenant I was ordered to escort him ashore for interrogation I well remember the dignity with which he comported himself, refusing to answer any questions except to state name and rank.

However, on the way back to the battleship *Vaillant* he told me how he had breached the harbour defences and as we approached the ship, which was bathed in brilliant moonlight, he turned to me and said: "How sad that we sailors have to damage such

beautiful ships". I took this to mean that his mission had been accomplished successfully and reported accordingly to my superiors.



Duncan Newson

IN YOUR obituary notice of Admiral Luigi de La Penne one some statements need correction.

The damage to HMS *Valiant* was confined to the side of B shell-room; the ship neither listed nor settled on her

port side. She was moved next day into the floating dry-dock. There was no evacuation: the lower deck was cleared and all water-tight doors closed. No one left the ship.

Captain W. D. Thorburn

The concise crossword, the chess problem and the answers to Word-Watching are to be found on page 16 of the Weekend Times.

MAUREEN WALKER



Maureen Walker, design journalist and home editor of *The Sunday Times* "Look" pages 1973-83, died of leukaemia on January 18 aged 46. She was born on May 19, 1945.

MAUREEN Walker's career in journalism spanned the years of invention and exuberance which followed the so-called post-war Age of Austerity. Through her articles she chronicled the rise of Habitat, Mary Quant and Laura Ashley. Through her interest and efforts she contributed to the survival and success of a whole generation of new young designers. She began her career as home editor of *Nova*, the magazine which set a new pattern for the glossies in the 1960s. In 1973 she joined *The Sunday Times* "Look" pages as a design writer. After she became freelance in 1983, she continued to work for *The Sunday Times* to complete an 18-year relationship with the paper.

She was always very modest, perhaps correctly, about her abilities as a writer and preferred to confine her copy to captions. But she could encapsulate her views with a witty and sometimes acerbic turn of phrase. She was almost too fair minded in everything she wrote to be a

journalist's journalist. In the sort of macho atmosphere of a national newspaper on a page which was not in the early Seventies regarded as "serious", worrying about the exactness of facts and of getting just the right picture was considered eccentric. But she was fastidious about her work and could be surprisingly stubborn. She hated new technology and always worked on an old Olivetti portable typewriter: it gave her

pleasure to know that the Design Museum in London's Docklands carries an example.

Maureen Walker's great quality was her capacity to spot what was happening in design very quickly. Her pieces were lively, factually detailed, entertaining and always in touch with the latest happenings. Her ancient Morris Minor Estate always referred to as TAP, its registration number, acted as a mobile props cupboard, producing a seemingly endless supply of furniture and accessories. She was one of the few editors who could work easily with photographers, reflecting her ability to make and keep friends wherever she went.

She had a tremendous capacity for fun. Weekdays were for going out, with Bianchi's as a favourite watering-hole. Saturdays were to enjoy at home; and New Year's Eve was always at home with obligatory eightsome reels bringing out her deep Scottish roots.

She made light of her illness. In spite of heavy doses of chemotherapy she carried on working until last December, while at the same time embarking on a children's book, a completely new venture.

Richard Hunt

RICHARD Hunt, a performer who gave life to scores of characters on *Sesame Street*, *Fraggle Rock* and *The Muppet Show*, has died of complications from Aids aged 40.

Hunt had no formal training as a puppeteer when he joined Henson Productions. He began his career writing weather forecasts for a radio

station. He left after four months and found himself at home often viewing the Muppets.

He managed an introduction to Henson, participated in a workshop production and found himself puppeteering in the 1970 television special *The Great Santa Claus Switch*. Two years later he was summoned to *Sesame Street* and remained there until his death.

ST. JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30

ST. JAMES'S, St. James's, SW1: 5.45

ST. JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 5

ST. JAMES'S, St. James's, SW1: 5.45

Airlines told to use cabin sprinklers

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE world's entire fleet of commercial passenger aircraft is to be ordered to fit cabin water sprinkler systems after a British breakthrough in firefighting technology.

A draft international rule being drawn up by the Civil Aviation Authority and aviation safety officials in America and Europe is expected to be made mandatory a year from now.

The CAA believes that British companies have found a way of using water already being carried in aircraft lavatories and galleys which, in an emergency, would be pumped along thin pipes in cabin ceilings and then sprayed out in a fine mist.

Research in Britain, Canada, America and France has shown that the mist is almost 100 per cent effective in putting out any kind of cabin fire and is particularly effective against toxic fumes and smoke. Only in Britain has it been possible to devise a way of putting this into use on board commercial aircraft without costing too much or adding unacceptable weight.

A fire which swept a British Airways 737 jet at Manchester airport six years ago, killing 55 passengers and crew, led to demands for smoke hoods to be made available to all airline passengers. The CAA resisted because, it said, passengers could lose vital time if they tried to put on hoods in a crowded cabin.

The CAA has worked with several industrial companies to produce an automatic water spray which could put out any fire without affecting passengers.

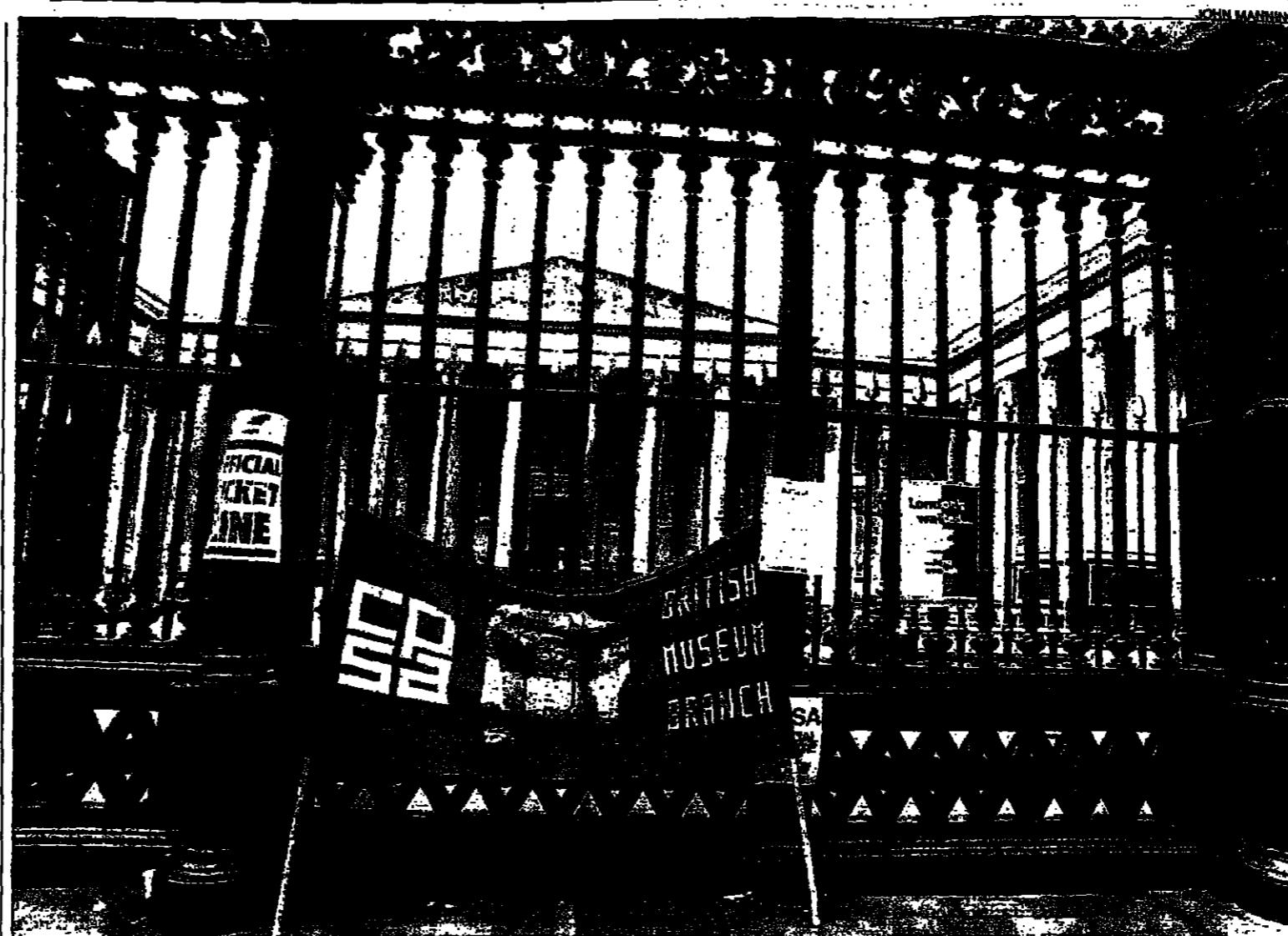
Airlines balked at the cost of carrying extra water in tanks which could be used for fuel and which would mean heavy weight penalties at a time when they were struggling to make a profit as the

number of passengers dwindled.

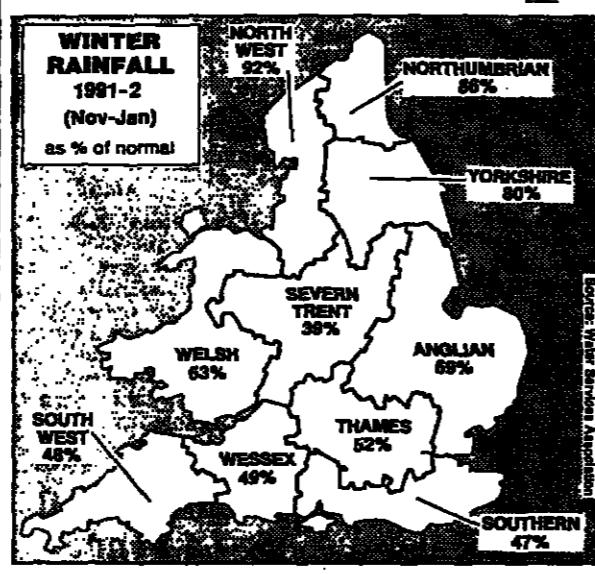
Analysis of 89 accidents after the Manchester disaster showed that most emergency ground evacuations took three minutes 20 seconds, with the fire services arriving on the scene in two minutes 20 seconds. The CAA believes that a three-minute on-board water spray would be the maximum needed to ensure survival in most cases. This could easily be found from the water carried routinely.

Dick Duffell, of the CAA, said that the system could save 14 lives each year. The CAA has not totally ruled out the mandatory use of smoke hoods provided manufacturers can meet the strict criteria and prove that they will not hinder escape.

The draft proposal will now be discussed by the CAA, the FAA in America and the European Joint Aviation Authorities. A proposed notice of rule-making will be issued later this year and the final rule in mid-1993.



Hidden treasure: the gates of the British Museum remained firmly closed yesterday as staff there joined the protest over allowances



England short of rain

Continued from page 1

4.5 million people are already in force, and pessimists are talking about setting up desalination plants along the South Coast within a decade if the trend continues.

Not one of the ten water authorities in England and Wales recorded normal rainfall levels from November to January. North West Water had 92 per cent of its normal level while the Severn Trent authority, covering Birmingham and central England, recorded only 39 per cent of its average precipitation.

The Anglian region of the rivers authority, which stretches from the Humber to the

Thames, admitted that there was virtually no chance of the 18in of rain needed falling between now and the end of April. The 41 months to the end of December were the longest dry period in the region this century, with only 79 per cent of normal rainfall recorded.

In the north the weather is more seasonal, and umbrellas are still required. In Scotland, supplies are even healthier. At the beginning of last month 3in of rain fell in two days on Kilmory, in the southwest, while Eskdalemuir, in the southern uplands, enjoyed an extra inch in a 48-hour cloudburst.

One-day strikers close museums and galleries

BY PETER VICTOR

ABOUT 45,000 civil service staff from government offices, museums and galleries in London went on strike yesterday over a three-year freeze on London weighting allowances.

Travellers faced customs delays at Heathrow. More than 800 government offices and Whitehall ministries were affected, and museums and social security and employment offices remained closed.

The workers receive a London weighting allowance of £1,750, which they claim is less than allowances paid to

other public sector workers. Union leaders are seeking a 21.5 per cent increase, to £2,155, and have given a warning that more strikes could follow if the Treasury refuses to go to arbitration.

Workers picketed the entrance to Downing Street, HMS Belfast, part of the Imperial War Museum, the Cabinet War Rooms and the ministry of defence headquarters.

Tourists visiting the British Museum faced locked doors but museums and galleries should be back to normal today.

UN takes on role as peace maker

Continued from page 1
uniting the UN to work for human rights and nuclear non-proliferation. Against the background of reports that China was selling missile technology to Syria and Pakistan, the declaration promised that security council members would take "appropriate measures in the case of any violations notified to them by the International Atomic Energy Agency".

China is permanent member of the security council and its prime minister, Li Peng, was at yesterday's summit. President Bush met Mr Li afterwards to discuss an American offer to ease sanctions on China in exchange for formal commitments to contain the spread of nuclear technology.

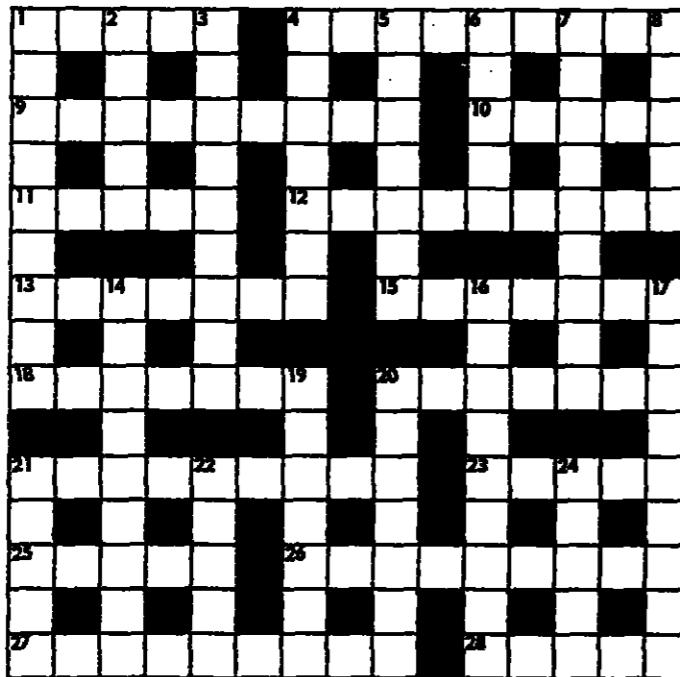
A paragraph in the summit declaration specifically calls on UN members to take action to prevent such a spread, reflecting concern over the future of nuclear scientists from the former Soviet Union. Mr Yeltsin supported the creation of international centres where the Soviet scientists could conduct research. He also repeated his call for a global anti-missile security system, based on America's "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative, which could use high technologies developed in Russia.

President Bush used his address to put pressure on Libya to surrender the Lockerbie bombing suspects, pointing to the concerted action over the Gulf. "Progress comes in acting in concert and we must deal resolutely with these renegade regimes — if necessary by sanctions or stronger measures — to compel them to observe international standards of behaviour," he said.

A resolution is expected to be put to the security council this month imposing sanctions on Libya.

Summit reports, page 8
Leading article, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,830



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

BLATTERPHONE.
a. Mouth on the telephone
b. Having a madding voice
c. An early tape recorder

GROAK.
a. To groan
b. A hiss or groan
c. An oafish quartermaster

PANGRAM.
a. An alphabet
c. A sentence containing every letter

EUHEMERISM.
a. Divine or idealism
b. The belief that myths are true
c. Having beautiful thoughts

Answers on Weekend Times 16

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M25 London Orbital only 705

National

National motorways 737

West Country 738

Wales 739

Midlands 740

East Anglia 741

North-west England 742

North-east England 743

Scotland 744

Northern Ireland 745

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Dorset, Hants & IOW 703

Devon & Cornwall 704

West Midlands 705

East Anglia 706

North-west England 707

North-east England 708

Scotland 709

Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 710

West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent 711

Wales 712

Midlands 713

Lines & Humber 714

Dyfed & Pwys 714

Gwynedd & Chwyd 715

W. & S Yorks & Dales 716

N. E. England 717

Cumbria & Lake District 718

S. W. Scotland 720

W. Central Scotland 721

Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders 722

E. Central Scotland 723

Grampian & E. Highlands 724

N. W. Scotland 725

Orkney & Shetland 726

N. Ireland 727

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (for speed info) and 48p per minute at all other times.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: G V Lister, Horsham, Linkview Crescent, Worcester; M Wellington, The Square, Middleton Hall, Wooler, Northumberland; C J Story, High Street, Lynton, Hants; J W Fyans, Coxford Close, Sidbury, Devon; B J Dell, Parkland Close, Columb Minor, Newquay, Cornwall.

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,829

ACROSS

1 Tore female's socio-economic group (5).
4 One behind all the others may have morale etc shattered (9).
9 Dress mother to take part in charade (9).
10 Sample surrealism initially in art gallery (5).
11 Rescue and soothe (5).
12 Underground worker generating a good turnover (9).
13 Disastrous game before one acquires common sense (7).
15 Two adjacent Saxon Islands without a bar (7).
16 Metal binding pair of animals (7).
20 Like a particular sleeve, one of two in sack (7).
21 One condemning unorthodox creed, wanting word introduced (9).
23 Ward off madman losing head by road junction (5).
25 Choral piece has phrase that's witty and classical (5).
26 Black sheep, unwell internally, should be nurtured through childhood (7,2).
27 Most frank in the period after break (9).
28 Painter must take care of corrosion (5).

DOWN

1 Port supplied before eight. Drinker may find that useful (9).
2 Financial backer has some change left (5).
3 Actor is "entrancing"? This should help (5).
4 Sole in disguised? One has one's pride maybe (7).
5 Proposition from those people about foreign currency? (7).
6 Female companion, one worth luring into marriage? (5).
7 He dictated a note about ordering sun oils (9).
8 Discharge explosive with strange wrapping (5).
14 One has a weapon, the fashion in part of London (9).
16 Lacking vitality? Put the garlic in stew (9).
17 Star perhaps in club? (5).
19 Taxi plumping into sea at Weston? That's grim (7).
20 Run amok in fight — result is exhaustion (4-3).
21 Roughly 500 turning up for protests (5).
22 Release from BBC, the first to come out (5).
24 No cooker? Have meal with hesitation (5).

Solutions to Puzzle No 18,829

PARKER Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Saturday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 456, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

The Crossword is on Weekend Times page 16

WEATHER

Another grey and misty day for much of England. Fog will clear slowly and may persist all day, with some freezing fog in central and northern England. Western England and Wales will be misty with some hazy sunshine before fog returns in the evening. Northernmost Scotland and the northern Isles will be dry with sun periods although there may be rain in the evening. The rest of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the border counties of England will be cloudy, mostly dry in the east. Outlook: Some rain in the north then brighter. Little change in the south.

Information supplied by Met Office



Carol Leonard finds the man who takes over at the OFT in June is a cool customer who gets what he wants

Sir Bryan Carsberg, the Ofel director general, due to switch in June from Ofel to the Office of Fair Trading, the most powerful regulatory job in Britain, is a confident man.

While informed observers will admit that his regulatory effectiveness has not yet been conclusively proven, especially in such an omnipotent role as that which awaits him at the OFT, Carsberg, aged 53, has no doubts.

At a dinner in Tokyo two weeks ago, with the Japanese minister of post and telecommunications, he found himself on a stage with a karaoke machine. He chose the song *My Way*, says it could be the regulators' anthem, but then adds that he insisted upon rewriting some of the words. "There is one line," he says, "which goes: 'There were times, I guess you knew, when I bit off more than I could chew.' No way would I sing that. I announced that these words were wrong and that I always knew what I was about." Carsberg laughs. The laugh turns into a lingering smile. The skin around his eyes creases into folds. The pale blue irises glister. He has a habit of smiling whenever he explains something of importance, looking perhaps for a glimmer of comprehension in your own eyes.

It could appear patronising, but it does not. Instead he looks almost angelic in a round-faced, gnome-like way. "Yes, he does look like a sweet little thing, doesn't he," says John Arnold, professor of accounting at Manchester University, and a friend for 25 years. Then it is Arnold's turn to laugh, a slightly sarcastic laugh, thereby indicating that appearances can be misleading. "No, I'm not frightened of him, but some people are frightened by his intellect and coolness. He has one of the sharpest minds I have come across, he can disassemble problems in a way that no one can and he can be very difficult to keep up with." In one of Carsberg's earlier guises, as Arnold's predecessor as an

accountancy professor at Manchester University, he was, for a time, faculty dean. "He was respected by senior managers within the faculty," says Arnold, "but he aroused suspicion among other departments. There was competition for resources and yet Bryan usually got what he wanted. He plays his cards close to his chest."

Carsberg is not a man to take anything lying down. Nor has his intellectual ability ever been in question. As a schoolboy he got more than 90 marks out of 100 in his mathematics "O" level. In his accountancy finals he came top, nationally, in competition with 1,500 other trainees. He can still remember the marks he got for all his "O" level papers. His memory is not in question either.

In fact, if he has altered at all over the years, it is simply that he has gained confidence. "I have developed more self confidence as I have grown older and as I found that the analysis I developed and tested seemed to work. You need a certain self confidence to be able to go out on a limb and accept the consequences. I used to worry much more than I do now and I used to be much more sensitive."

He mentions a recent *Financial Times* article in which he was described as being intellectually arrogant. "I don't actually think I am, but ten years ago that might have upset me. I have now come to terms with the fact that you can't do this sort of job without an element of personal criticism."

This growth in self confidence indicates that, as a youth, he was perhaps lacking in confidence. Ask Carsberg — the name is of Swedish extraction — about his childhood and he paints the picture of the quiet, self-contained little boy — he is still only 5ft 5in tall — a prize-winning student, exceptionally numerate, with a small circle of close friends. He was also a competent sportsman, in the school football team — Berkhamsted School — and house cricket team. "I was a middle order batsman, a rather steady sort of batsman, hard to get out



JULIAN HERBERT

Rarely a cross word: Sir Bryan and Lady Carsberg at home — he may hurry a tedious conversation but never loses his temper

and I accumulated runs slowly."

Some of his colleagues at Ofel would argue that in this he has not changed. He is known within the telecommunications industry for his dogged determination. "I am an analytical person, my colleagues will probably tell you that I am unusually analytical. I like to work things out to tease away at them." He is not a man who would speak or take action without thinking everything through carefully. "I do everything thoughtfully and deliberately, never impulsively," he says. But he is not, he insists, high handed. "In an intellectual argument I will give people a tough time. Not an unpleasant time, but if they put forward an argument that I don't think holds water, I will say so and test it out, in the spirit of trying to get to the bottom of it." He delights in intellectual debate. A comparative newcomer to

man management, he has developed a style all his own. He does not, he says, summon subordinates to his office, preferring to "wander the corridors" and visit them. He also expresses a dislike of excessively long meetings, but although time wasting can make him impatient, he has never been known to lose his temper. "I have never lost my temper at work and almost never at home," he says. He is given more to irritation and says his wife Margaret, mother of his two daughters, Debbie, aged 30, and Sarah, 27, can spot it at once. "She can tell from my body language, an element of tension creeps into my behaviour. If I think someone is saying something silly but it is impolite to say so, I will say so and test it out, in the spirit of trying to get to the bottom of it." He delights in the way I try to hurry a conversation." Carsberg thought long and hard

before accepting the Ofel job, and initially turned it down. "The government wanted someone to do it for five years but at the LSE, where I had a very happy chair, with an interesting portfolio, they would only agree to three years. I wasn't prepared to give all that up." The government relented and agreed to a three-year term. He had once again got his own way, even if he has now been in office for a total of eight years.

"I underestimated the job potential at the time, it's been the most marvellous job." He prides himself on having "established in the UK that competition is not only actually possible in telecommunications but also rather a good idea. Back in 1984 when I accepted the job some people said I was crazy, that that wouldn't be possible, and that it would really be about regulating a strong monopolist". He sees one of his big achieve-

ments as being the introduction of British Telecom's customer compensation scheme. "It is one of the things I'm proudest of, the £5 a day compensation if your phone is not repaired on time or a new line installed properly. That has been a world first and it has had a marvelous effect on BT's performance."

Friends and colleagues are surprised by his emotional reaction to music. Even more when they learn he once shed a tear listening to Peer Gynt. For he is, they say, as analytical in his dealings with people as he is with economic problems. He is always polite but can appear to lack the human touch.

Ask Carsberg to turn those considerable analytical powers on himself and he will conclude that he is a loner. "When I started at Ofel someone drew the analogy between being a long-distance runner and doing the job I do. I think there is something in that." He has, of course, analysed the subject accurately. I ask him for the name of a close friend. "I have a difficulty here," he admits. He is always scrupulously honest. "I get on easily with people but I don't have close friends. Therefore I don't feel there is anybody who knows me that well."

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

Tory vision promises a land of milk and money

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the public sector, Week Ending brings you *Privatisation II*, the sequel.

Yes, the "p" word is back, bigger and bolder than ever. John Major may have sailed off to his desert island humbling *The Best is Yet to Come*, but as the week came to a close, another Sirna-style buster was looking more appropriate — *Her Way*.

For with pre-election manoeuvring approaching fever-pitch, it is clear that the Tory faithful are pressing hard for a campaign based upon the tried and trusted formula of lower taxes and more public sector sell-offs. The question is what is there left to sell?

The Institute of Directors, a body where the new caring, sharing Nineties never really dawned, is certainly not short of suggestions. Peter Morgan, its formidable director-general, fairly rattles them off. First he wants the ones we know about out of the way — British Rail, British Coal, the Post Office — and then swiftly on to the ones we do not, such as motorways and government-owned buildings. Enough to be going on with?

Certainly not. Mr Morgan is far from happy about the level of political control in such organisations as the BBC, the health service and education. And how does he envisage this control being reduced? Anyone requiring more than one guess can go straight to the bottom of the privatisation class... just as soon as they have paid their tuition fees.

Whether Sir Bob Reid has been paying his privatisation fees remains a moot point. This week he did nothing to allay suspicions that since moving to the publicly funded chair of British Rail he has gone right-tipped — positively Kevined — about any everything-must-go version favoured by the transport department or the sepia-tinted

regionally devolved form preferred by Isambard K Major at Number 10.

Sir Bob preferred to concentrate on the management challenge faced by BR, regardless of who owns it. "We know that our customers' expectations rise faster than our performance." What his long-suffering customers know is that if privatisation gets the go-ahead, it will be fares that rise faster than either their expectations or BR's performance.

Not that Sir Bob is terminally halted at a privatisation red light. After all, he has

plans to switch from being, in effect, a statutory co-operative to one that farmers can choose to join.

Not surprisingly, there are those who think such proposals do not go far enough.

Dairy Crest, the MMB's dairy products subsidiary, is to become an independent company and looks well on the way to an early sell-off.

So why not go the whole hog and privatisate the MMB as well?

Why not indeed. But already the boss of the Dairy Trades Federation, Brian Smith, has

questioned whether the MMB should be restructured in one piece or split into smaller, regional companies.

Here speaks a man who has captured the mood of the day. One can already see the City prospectuses — a flotation of Great Western Dairies, a private placing of London, Midland and Scottish Creameries — heralding a return to the golden days of British dairying. I wonder if sepia-tinted milk tastes good?

Common sense would suggest that more competition in a privatised dairy industry should lead to lower milk prices. Just as it has, of course, in the telephone, energy and water industries and may shortly on the railways.

But just to make doubly sure, a feasibility study will see whether a cross-Channel liquid milk pipeline can be built alongside the pipe that will bring continental gas supplies into competition with British Gas. But given French farmers' legendary aversion to open-market forces, what works for gas may prove less effective with milk.

The alternative, especially if the MMB is floated in one piece, is to pursue the now-established structure to limit prices charged by a newly privatised but still largely monopolistic company. Ofel, Ofgas and Ofwat are all keen to show that price regulation can work. But Ofmilk? Somehow it leaves a rather sour taste in the mouth.

TWA flies into chapter 11 protection

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

CARL ICahn, the former corporate raider, is expected to give up control of Trans World Airlines, America's sixth-largest carrier, which yesterday sought chapter 11 protection against creditors to facilitate a \$1 billion debt reduction.

A TWA spokesman said he expected the carrier's finances to remain under bankruptcy court supervision for six months. "But while that is happening, it will be business as usual," he said.

Mr Icahn, who borrowed against TWA assets to buy the airline in 1986, claims to have \$500 million cash, \$100 million due in the next 30 days from asset sales of the Philadelphia and Baltimore-London routes, and \$200 million of new borrowings.

He said: "Having these funds will, in my view, be more than adequate to enable us to continue to conduct our normal operations and should ensure the successful completion of our reorganisation. We will emerge from this stronger and more competitive."

The financial shake-up will cut debts by \$1 billion and save \$150 million in annual interest payments. TWA's creditors are being asked to accept new shares in exchange for their debts. Under a plan announced six months ago, this would have reduced Mr Icahn's stake in the recapitalised TWA from 90 per cent to between 20 and 45 per cent. TWA added: "We are not sure what his stake will be at the moment."

TWA is the sixth American carrier to seek chapter 11 protection in the past few years. Two of them, Eastern Air Lines and Pan American World Airways, are in liquidation. TWA, one of the oldest and most financially troubled of America's airlines, had been expected to reorganise through the bankruptcy courts this year.

Last summer, TWA had to sell its entire London operations at Heathrow to American Airlines for \$445 million to stay in the air.

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TTD/SPR

THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1992

When is a mortgage rate more money for the lender? The answer is when savings rates are cut by more and sooner. Building societies are cutting their savers' rates up to a month before lower rates will reduce mortgage payments for existing borrowers. They also seem to be taking an opportunity to increase the margin between savers' rates and mortgage rates and in some cases have two goes at cutting rates within a few weeks.

Should the Budget herald a base rate cut, societies do not rule out another mortgage rate cut. Of course, this will also be another opportunity to widen their margins and their profitability at the expense of savers.

Nationwide was the first to announce its reduced savers' rates. They apply from today. Its borrowers have to wait until March 1 for their reduction. The savers' cuts are on average 0.53 per cent when the base mortgage rate is being cut by 0.51 per cent

and larger loans are being reduced by less. Abbey National will announce its reduction early next week to take effect almost immediately. This will be the second slice off savings rates this year for the former building society, which led

mortgage rates down.

At the beginning of January, it shaved 0.1 per cent or 0.2 per cent off its gross savings rates. The Halifax has this week responded to that cut with a tidying up of its savings rates.

The gross rates are being cut by between 0.05 per cent and 0.45 per cent. In the next few days or weeks the cut to take account of mortgage reduction will be detailed for savers.

Some may still be unaware just how low their returns are now compared with this time last year. The scrapping of composite rate tax gave all banks and building

societies the chance to alter the way they present interest rate tables. Now the most prominent figures are the gross rates, not the return after tax is deducted by the society even though the majority of savers receive net interest and many have to pay a further slug of tax to take account of the higher rate.

Gross rates are quoted first in brochures, and some building societies quote nothing else on posters. Those passing one building society branch proclaiming an interest rate of 17.15 per cent in all its windows

would have to go inside to find out that the only way this can be paid is to non-taxpayers, who have registered for gross interest. The net rate is 8.36 per cent. Savers could do well to watch the net rates and the timing of any cuts.

Clever Halifax

Clever timing from the Halifax when announcing its new charges on savings accounts means that at its annual meeting there will be no embarrassing vote against the

charges on pensioners and the low-paid announced last weekend.

Resolutions supported by 50 members with £100 or more in their accounts continuously for two years had to be with the largest society by last night. Even the angriest member of the society would have been hard-pressed, from first picking up a brochure last Saturday listing the £2.50 a quarter charge on accounts falling below £50 for 30 days and 60p per counter withdrawal after the first two a month, to rally support and get the documentation to the Halifax headquarters in time for yesterday's cut-off for submission of resolutions for the May annual meeting.

This means that thousands or even hundreds of thousands of savers cannot express their objections to the charges through a postal ballot. They would have to feel strongly enough to take time

off work and travel to Yorkshire for the day. Few people have faith in the power of a private letter of protest to a financial institution.

Last year, the Nationwide executives had to face a packed hall in London to defend its decision to lock savers into an account paying a lower rate of interest than a new account. Those who could not attend could make their feelings known by voting for a resolution asking for existing savers to be treated as well as new ones. Almost 90,000 voted for the resolution even though it would not have bound Nationwide's policymaking if it had succeeded. But the society has said it will think again before disadvantaging existing savers in its 90-day account.

No such discomfort for the Halifax, though. By next year's deadline for resolutions those who do not like the charges will have left the society. And in the true traditions of building society democracy, the Halifax will be able to keep to itself how many people close their accounts.

Insurers fight surge in thefts by raising premiums and moving boundaries for charges

Contents cover may double in price

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

MANY household insurance policies are set to rise by 20 per cent or more for a second year running and some policyholders will find their premiums doubled this year.

The rise in thefts is mainly responsible. Such has been the increase in claims, some companies say, that one increase averaging 20 per cent in 1992 may not be enough. At the same time, companies are getting tougher on paying our claims in full.

Weekend Money readers are querying some rises, especially if they have not claimed. One owner of a one-bedroom flat in London NW8 was told this week her annual premium would rise from £242 to £425. This was because her area had become higher risk, according to the insurer, and jewellery was being charged for differently. The jewellery alone added £100 to the premium.

Another reader, who had made a claim for £4,000 for the first burglary during the five years she has lived in Earls Court, London, was told that to continue the policy she had to agree to pay the first £1,000 of any future theft claim.

The Association of British Insurers says on average, con-

tents policies rose 15 per cent last year, although in some areas people could have paid much more if insurance companies rated the area as at higher risk of theft. Policyholders who have never claimed still have to pay more unless they find a company that is happier with the area.

Latest theft claim figures for the third quarter of 1991 show the amount claimed was 75 per cent up on the same period of 1990 and claims rose 55 per cent.

The rise in the size of claims has made some companies more vigilant in assessing them. Some believe policyholders are inflating claims dishonestly. Calum Spreng, of General Accident, said: "In the last two years the cost of burglary claims has doubled for us but the number of burglaries has only gone up 50 per cent. It may be more stolen, it may be there are more burglaries, or it may be claims are exaggerated. It's probably a bit of each. We do know that if anyone accepts a lot less and asks for cash there is a case for more investigation and if they phone every day we take another look."

Michael Auld, of Guardian Royal Exchange, said: "We have seen it all before. Every



time there is a recession you see a rise in crime and a bigger rise in claims. As premiums rise, so more and more feel they must get their money's worth first by making a claim and secondly by making it as big as possible."

The Association of British Insurers said: "Companies seem to be looking at claims to make sure people don't try to be fraudulent. People who lose a television may be tempted to put in a top price but the companies know if it can be replaced more cheaply."

AA Insurance raised premiums an average 20 per cent last year. This was implemented by reviews in March, July and December. "Everyone will be reviewing over the year rather than all at once," AA said. By doing this, the insurance companies hope to

High-risk drivers hit in the pocket

By SARA McCONNELL

DRIVERS should be prepared for an expensive year, particularly if they live in an inner city, are under 25 or have a high performance car. Insurance premiums have already started to rise since the start of this year by about 10 per cent, on top of average increases of 25 per cent last year. Some drivers will pay 100 per cent more when they renew their cover, and compulsory excesses are being imposed.

Insurers are fighting back after huge losses on motor insurance last year. They blame the recession, dearer motor repairs and personal injury awards and more accidents because of more crowded roads. Claims for theft of or from vehicles were particularly high at £432 million in 1990.

The government is trying to get motorists to take more responsibility for their own car security. February 11 will be the start of Car Crime Prevention Year with a £5 million advertising campaign. But John Patten, the home office minister, said he was very disappointed that insurers were not reducing premiums or offering discounts to drivers who attached locks or alarms to their existing cars.

The Association of British Insurers conceded most insurers were doing precisely the opposite, raising premiums for most motorists this year. Only a handful offer discounts for cars fitted with locks or alarms by

manufacturers. Younger drivers will be hardest hit, particularly if they drive sporty "hot hatch" cars, like a Ford Sierra, RS Cosworth. Norwich Union said last October that a driver between 17 and 25 driving a car like a Golf GTI and living in one of a growing number of high risk areas might have to pay 100 per cent more for insurance at next renewal. Norwich Union has regarded all areas

short of cash for repairs to claim for damage and risk losing their no-claims bonus.

Eagle Star is one of the first insurers to show its hand this year, with a 10 per cent average increase in premiums on policies renewed after January 1. Last year, premiums rose an average of 8.5 per cent in July and 8 per cent in October.

From last month, comprehensive insurance premiums

dow in order to steal a radio. Eagle Star said: "These increases are a reaction to the problems all motor insurers face. We have to tighten all premiums but we are trying to limit the increases. There is more of a trend towards looking at the relationship between risk and cover."

General Accident announced a 6 per cent rise in comprehensive cover from January 1, on top of an average increase last year of 25 per cent. GA lost £84.9 million on its motor account in the first nine months of 1991 against £76.5 million for all of 1990. The cost of claims had risen 13 per cent and claims frequency is now one in four, up from one in five last year. Since January 1, the company has imposed a £100 theft excess and limited to £500 claims for "in-car entertainment".

Norwich Union, Guardian Royal Exchange and Sun Alliance have not yet announced rises this year, but last year GRE and Norwich Union introduced theft excesses of £100 for any car not garaged or locked with specific locks. Sun Alliance has imposed a £100 excess for fire and theft. All three raised premiums last year by 20-30 per cent.

As a last straw, most companies will adopt a new system for grading car risk in April. The system, introduced by ABI in October, raised gradings from nine to 20. Each model is graded according to new car value, parts costs, performance and security.

Expensive mix: young driver and Ford Sierra Cosworth for risk, so many people in safe suburbs will be paying as much as their inner city counterparts. GA is also regrading its areas.

Excesses for fire and theft are also being imposed by most major insurers for the first time. Companies say privately that fire and theft claims are one result of the continuing recession. Cars which fail their MOT are sometimes torched by their owners so that they can claim the insurance, rather than having to pay for repairs. Alternatively, the car may be reported missing. The recession could also tempt people

to break into cars to steal radios.

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NEARLY six in every 10 households insure their homes through their mortgage lenders, even though, in most cases, they could find cheaper policies elsewhere.

Contents insurance is a more flexible market, with fewer than 20 per cent insuring through their lenders, but most people are still inclined to stay with the same insurer. Jeff Tate, product manager with Swinton Insurance, the insurance adviser, said people should buy through brokers, who offer a wide choice of policies, rather than banks and building societies with their limited range.

It is worth obtaining a quote from insurers like Direct Line who do not use brokers and save on commission. Another way to save is to limit excess for a cheaper premium. A keen handyman may prefer to deal with minor problems, and leave the insurer to pay for big ones. Direct Line offers a 5 per cent discount on contents policies with a £25 excess. Pointless extras like bicycle insurance for households that do not

Westminster has a similar policy for Swinton.

Now that more buildings' policies are rated according to postcode, people in high-rated districts should shop around. Cover for £100,000 in London SW1 costs £180 a year with Direct Line, £260 with Norwich Union and £340 with Sun Alliance. But in Manchester M14, NU charges £260 per annum for the same cover, whereas Sun Alliance is £210 and Direct Line £170. A special British Insurance and Investment Brokers' Association policy has a flat premium of £252 for £155,000 of cover. There are no plans to change to a postcode system.

Drivers can make big savings on car insurance but some of the most obvious methods are a false economy, said Peter Farmer, the Automobile Association's development manager.

Reducing cover from comprehensive to third party, fire and theft could be expensive in an accident and putting a younger, higher-risk driver on a mature driver's policy could make the insurance cover invalid if the riskier driver was the main driver.

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By HELEN PRIDHAM

FROM March one of the attractions of annuities will be reduced. The tax-free element of the annuity income is to be cut. It will be the second time this year that annuity returns have been downgraded, although one group who will benefit from the forthcoming change will be non-taxpayers.

Despite the change, annuities are still likely to offer one of the highest fixed incomes available to elderly investors. However, it will become all the more important to seek out the best possible rates.

Pension annuities are not being affected by the tax changes. But many people who have their own private pension policies are losing out because they are neglecting the opportunity to shop around for the best annuity rates when they get to retirement. They are therefore ending up with lower pensions.

The main determinant of annuity rates is the general level of interest rates. Insurers normally use long-dated gilts and other fixed-interest securities as their underlying investments.

But other considerations enter into the equation. Nigel Silby of R. Watson & Sons, the consulting actuaries, said: "An important element for many companies will be marketing considerations. If an insurer is keen to attract business it will pitch its rates accordingly."

However, annuity business has high capital requirements and when companies have attracted enough business they often let their rates slide for a while. This will not affect existing investors as rates are fixed at the time of the investment. But new in-



Gross income available for an investment of £10,000 guaranteed for five years (figures in £)

IMMEDIATE ANNUITIES	
Man aged 75	Woman aged 75
RNPF for Nurses 1,725	RNPF for Nurses 1,531
Ecclesiastical 1,671	Standard Life 1,488
Standard Life 1,670	Ecclesiastical 1,488
Sun Alliance 1,642	Sun Alliance 1,470
Co-operative Ins 1,639	Co-operative Ins 1,468

PENSION ANNUITIES	
Man aged 65	Woman aged 60
Equitable Life 1,315	Provident Life 1,119
Provident Life 1,314	Equitable Life 1,114
Britannic 1,302	Britannic 1,108
General 1,302	Provident Capital 1,094
Pearl 1,300	Sun Life 1,094

Source: Planned Savings Data Services

vestors cannot rely on the same companies' generosity has also been curbed since January 1 by the change in

With general annuity busi-

where annuities play a central part in enabling elderly homeowners to gain extra income by unlocking some of the value of their home. But this part of its business was never part of its mainstream activities.

At Standard Life, where the change will not come into effect until after its financial year end in November, John Hylands, an actuary, said: "I believe the impact of the new tax rules will be broadly neutral as far as we are concerned."

Nevertheless, Age Concern has expressed its worries to the government about the effects of the change in annuity taxation on elderly investors.

The main drawback of annuities is that although they can provide a high fixed income, the investor loses control of the capital once an investment is made. Those with a personal pension policy can take part of the policy payout as a tax-free lump sum but the remainder must be invested in an annuity to provide a pension.

Most insurers offer pension annuities but, as with general annuities, the amounts vary considerably. People often assume they must take the pension from the company to which they have paid their premiums but this is not the case. If they find an insurer offering better rates, they can ask their original company to transfer their pension fund. This could make a considerable difference to their standard of living during their retirement.

Those with a pre-1988 personal pension policy have another consideration. The cash sums available under those contracts are larger than under current rules. If swapped to a new insurer, the pension will come under present legislation which restricts the tax-free lump sum to 25 per cent of the fund. However, the increase in pension may be worth it.

Companies have reacted differently. Allied Dunbar, for example, felt it may have to reduce its annuity rates by up to 20 per cent and therefore decided to pull out of the home income plan market.

Scottish safety strategy

By SARA MCCONNELL

AN INVESTMENT strategy which aims to reduce gradually a pension fund's exposure to equities as retirement approaches has been launched by Scottish Life on its Talisman range of unit-linked pension plans.

Under the retirement investment strategy, funds are switched gradually from Scottish Life's UK Equity fund into the managed fund 15 years before retirement. The managed fund combines equities and fixed-rate investments. Five years before retirement the funds are gradually switched again into the deposit and fixed-interest funds. The switches are free and automatic.

Ray Milne, Scottish Life's assistant general manager (marketing), said the greatest long-term return was achieved by investing in equities but added: "The risk of this is that people could end up with an income loss of thousands of pounds if the market falls just before their retirement. The compromise solution in the past has been to select the managed fund, but this falls short of full equity investment in the early years and still leaves the possibility of a sudden drop in fund value just before retirement."

The value of managed funds fell by about 30 per cent in the crash of 1987, Mr Milne said. Switches are gradual to avoid moving the whole fund on the wrong day. However, plan holders are not compelled to have their money switched.

Scottish Life has also cut its administration charges by up to 65 per cent on regular premium plans and up to 60 per cent on single premium plans and pension transfers. This means more of the contribution will be invested.

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*Source: Planned Savings, September 1990

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The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in December 1991.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
January	0.643	0.563	0.488	0.410	
February	0.636	0.558	0.478	0.405	
March	0.708	0.633	0.551	0.482	0.408
April	0.674	0.610	0.531	0.452	0.389
May	0.663	0.603	0.525	0.425	0.367
June	0.658	0.591	0.521	0.422	0.368
July	0.657	0.591	0.523	0.425	0.367
August	0.657	0.584	0.509	0.421	0.367
September	0.659	0.577	0.508	0.422	0.367
October	0.650	0.571	0.497	0.420	0.376
November	0.642	0.566	0.492	0.415	0.367
December	0.645	0.562	0.493	0.413	0.362
1987	1.088	1.089	1.090	1.091	
January	0.357	0.314	0.223	0.136	0.042
February	0.352	0.309	0.214	0.129	0.037
March	0.349	0.304	0.208	0.118	0.033
April	0.338	0.283	0.187	0.085	0.029
May	0.332	0.263	0.169	0.075	0.024
June	0.332	0.273	0.178	0.071	0.022
July	0.333	0.272	0.175	0.070	0.014
August	0.329	0.268	0.172	0.059	0.012
September	0.325	0.262	0.164	0.049	0.008
October	0.319	0.259	0.155	0.041	0.004
November	0.312	0.254	0.145	0.044	0.001
December	0.314	0.250	0.142	0.045	

The RII month for disposals by individuals on or after April 5, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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	Bank	Interest rate	Compounded monthly	Interest rate	Investment C	Notice	Contact
BANKS							
Ordinary Dep A/c:	2.63	2.65	2.12	none	none	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:							
Recleys	7.46	7.49	5.97	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567	
	7.50	6.00	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567		
Lyons	7.50	6.00	25,000-50,000	6 mth	071-626 1567		
Midland	6.05	6.05	5.92	2,000-10,000 max	1 mth	072 8299955	
	6.00	6.00	5.94	10,000-20,000 max	3 mth	072 8299955	
NatWest	6.04	6.04	5.47	10,000-20,000 max	1 mth	071-228 1000	
	6.75	6.75	5.83	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-228 1000	
	6.88	6.88	5.10	10,000-24,000	8 mth	071-228 1000	
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS							
Bank of Scotland HSA	6.45	6.88	5.34	2,500	none	081-442 7777	
Barclays	6.45	6.88	5.34	2,500	none	081-442 7777	
Co-operative	5.78	5.91	4.73	2,500	none	0814 525291	
Ulster	6.00	6.00	5.62	1,000	none	071-626 1567	
Cheltenham & Gloucester	6.25	5.25	4.20	1,000	none	071-626 1567	
Midland HSA	6.00	6.00	5.15	1,000	none	072 8299955	
Midland HSA	5.95	5.42	4.34	2,000	none	072 8299955	
NatWest	6.06	6.16	4.13	3,000	none	071-228 1000	
Special Reserve	6.08	6.21	4.97	2,500	none	081-559 0856	
Royal Bank of Scotland A/c	6.08	6.21	4.97	2,500	none	071-600 6000	
TBS Bank HSA	4.89	4.89	3.75	2,000	none	071-600 6000	
BUILDING SOCIETIES							
Ordinary Share A/c:	5.25	5.25	4.20	1 mth	none		
Best buy - largest socc:							
Portman	7.00	7.00	6.00	500 min	Inst		
Cheltenham & Gloucester	6.95	6.95	6.00	2,000 min	Postal		
Midland	6.95	6.95	6.00	25,000 min	8 day		
Shetland	6.76	6.76	7.01	2,500 min	80 day		
British & West	6.19	6.19	7.35	25,000 min	1 year		
Best buy - all socc:							
Portman	7.00	7.00	6.15	1 min	Inst		
Shetland	6.45	6.45	6.75	1,000 min	Postal		
St Pancras	6.63	6.63	6.00	25,000 min	80 day		
Midland Mid	6.81	6.81	7.05	25,000 min	80 day		
Anglia First	6.43	6.43	6.14	1 min	Inst		
Compiled by Chase de Vere Mortgages - call 071-404 5700 for further details							
NATIONAL SAVINGS							
Ordinary A/c:	5.03	5.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-545 4255	
Investment A/c:	5.20	7.13	5.70	5-25,000	1 mth	041-545 4255	
Income Bond:	10.25	7.00	6.16	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0233 861561	
Special Cert:	10.25	7.00	6.16	2,000-25,000	3 mth	041-545 4255	
Postage Stamp	5.00	5.00	5.00	25-100,000	5 min	041-545 4255	
Yealst Plan	6.00	6.00	5.00	20-250,000	14 day	091-388 49000	
Children's Bond	11.24	11.24	11.24	1,000	Inst	0114 570000	
Child Bond	5.00	5.00	5.00	25,000 min	5 yrs	041-545 4255	
Capital Bond	11.20	8.62	5.00	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-545 4255	
HOLIDAY SAVINGS							
Consolidated Life	5.00	5.00	5.00	2,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from	
Family Life	5.00	5.00	5.00	2,000 min	1 yrs	Cheltenham & Gloucester	
Personal Life	5.05	5.05	5.00	5,000 min	2 yrs	0114 570000	
Business Life	5.10	5.10	5.00	25,000 min	4 yrs	071-404 570000	
Prosperity Life	5.20	5.20	5.00	25,000 min	5 yrs	for details	
LARGER LOANS							
Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes			
BUILDING SOCIETIES							
Northern Rock	9.5	to 25000	95	1.40% off to 1.65%			
021 255 2191							
Building & Enviro	8.25	to 50000	75	5% discount for			
020 880 0034							
Greenwich	8.00	£30k	90	2% below basic for			
0181 828 2122				first six months			
BANKS							
B.N.P. Paribas	9.85	£15,000+	100	5% discount until			
071 529 4002				5.6.82			
OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)	9.5	£10-250	95	1.7% discount for			
Acme Life				first six months			
0494 425100							
Figures supplied by Chase de Vere Mortgages 071 404 570000							

Despair over Halifax decision to impose account charges

From Mrs Rosemary Barker
Sir, Your item today (Weekend Money, January 25) about the decision of the Halifax building society to levy charges on small savings accounts has filled me with despair.

When he was 18, my son was encouraged by the National Westminster Bank to overdraw on his account to a sum which eventually was rather more than his gross monthly pay. He then decided to return to study, so we paid off his overdraft and he moved his finances to a building society. The system has worked very well for almost two years, as he knows there is no risk of his withdrawing

money that he does not have, which you rightly describe in your leader as the precise reason for which people opted for the cardiac account. Only building societies offer this safeguard.

Now what is he to do? He will either have to pay charges on his building society account or return to a system which is for him and for many other young people has proved catastrophic.

It is too late for us to hope that the Halifax will see the damage the proposed change will do.

Yours faithfully,

ROSEMARY BARKER,

19 Sion Hill,

Bristol.



Brixton blues

From Miss Louise Peachey

Sir, Your article (January 25) stated that the Halifax Building Society had proposed to reduce queues, but this is only possible if its cash dispensers work, which they do not at

their Brixton branch on Saturday mornings.

Yours faithfully,

LOUISE PEACHEY,

Louise Peachey & Associates,

6 Lorn Road,

SW9.

Security of personal pension schemes guaranteed by law

From Mr Giles Bateman

Sir, Like Mr Nisbet (January 25), I have been protesting to my local branch about the Lloyds Bank's mail-forwarding impost. The manager has advised me to write to the chairman of the bank, Sir Jeremy Morse; I may yet have to do so.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the figure on the right. If your total is higher than this figure you have won cashback or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You may have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Code or Name	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Marie Spencer	Drapery/St		17	8	Midland Corp	100	100	98	Midland Corp	100	100	98
2	Woolsey	Industrial		154	124	Monogram Text	150	145	145	Monogram Text	150	145	145
3	Siemens Eng	Industrial		167	157	Montgomery Ward	150	145	145	Montgomery Ward	150	145	145
4	Avia Sec	Electrical		120	110	Motorola	150	145	145	Motorola	150	145	145
5	Mandarin Grid	Hotels/Cat		121	112	Motorola	150	145	145	Motorola	150	145	145
6	Neat	Drapery/St		145	135	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
7	Firwalks	Industrial		120	112	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
8	Usher Walker	Paper/Pest		116	106	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
9	Koch-Fa	Metals/Alu		105	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
10	APV	Industrial		145	135	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
11	Black	Electrical		125	115	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
12	Mitsui Thimp	Breweries		125	115	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
13	Sidew	Industrial		115	105	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
14	Lerd	Industrial		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
15	Seven Trent	Water		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
16	Alfred Tietz	Textiles		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
17	Br Aerospace	Motors/Air		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
18	TSW	Leisure		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
19	Hilma	Industrial		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
20	Portals	Industrial		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
21	ECC Group	Industrial		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
22	New Cavendish	Property		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
23	Wates	Property		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
24	EMAP	Newspaper/Pub		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
25	First Leisure	Leisure		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
26	Asiac Fisheries	Foods		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
27	Monsie (Aldi)	Drapery/St		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
28	Jacob (J)	Transport		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
29	Graziano	Industrial		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
30	Bowthorpe	Electrical		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
31	Crown Eye	Drapery/St		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
32	Barratt Devs	Building/Rds		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
33	Cadbury-Sch	Foods		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
34	Ward Storage	Chems/Plas		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
35	Swedley	Building/Rds		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
36	Cleaton (M)	Building/Rds		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
37	Mazefield (B)	Foods		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
38	AB Food	Foods		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
39	Wilson (C)	Building/Rds		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
40	Bank Scotland	Bank/Dis		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
41	Seico Gp	Industrial		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
42	AIM	Industrial		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
43	Woodside	Oil/Gas		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
44	Brian Walker	Leisure		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95
45	GT Times Newspapers Ltd	Total		120	110	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95	MOTAC Corp	95	95	95

Please take into account any minus signs.

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your dividend results for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUNDAY

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Richard Marshall of Shaftesbury, Dorset and J.J.W. Swain, of Milton Haven, each received £2,000.

No	Company	Group	Code or Name	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
1	Albion	Bank		120	110	AB Food	120	110	100	AB Food	120	110	100
2	ABG	Electrical		120	110	ABG	120	110	100	ABG	120	110	100
3	ABK	Electrical		120	110	ABK	120	110	100	ABK	120	110	100
4	ABM	Electrical		120	110	ABM	120	110	100	ABM	120	110	100
5	ABP	Electrical		120	110	ABP	120	110	100	ABP	120	110	100
6	ABT	Electrical		120	110	ABT	120	110	100	ABT	120	110	100
7	ABV	Electrical		120	110	ABV	120	110	100	ABV	120	110	100
8	ABW	Electrical		120	110	ABW	120	110	100	ABW	120	110	100
9	ABX	Electrical		120	110	ABX	120	110	100	ABX	120	110	100
10	ABY	Electrical		120	110	ABY	120	110	100	ABY	120	110	100
11	ABZ	Electrical		120	110	ABZ	120	110	100	ABZ	120	110	100
12	ABZ	Electrical		120	110	ABZ	120	110	100	ABZ	120	110	100
13	ABZ	Electrical		120	110	ABZ	120	110	100	ABZ	120	110	100
14	ABZ	Electrical		120	110	ABZ	120	110	100	ABZ	120	110	100
15	ABZ	Electrical		120	110								

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS												COMMODITIES												
New York (midday)						Brussels						FT-SE 100						Exchange index compared with 1965 was up at 90.9 (day's range 90.7-90.9).						
Abbey Nat 1,000	Courtaulds 4,200	MEPC 637	Sainsbury 3,000	Dow Jones 3232.56 (-12.30)	General 5841.88 (+15.25)	Period Mar 92	Open 2600.0	High 2616.0	Low 2592.0	Close 2604.0	Volume 9970	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months						
Alld Lyons 5,300	Enterpr Oil 740	Marks Spr 4,200	Scott & New 1,400	S&P Composite 410.05 (-1.58)	Paris: CAC 504.72 (-2.44)	Mar 92	89.73	89.74	89.64	89.67	28782	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months						
Anglian W 3,500	Euromil U 178	Midland Br 2,900	Scott Power 3,500	Tokyo: Nikkei Avge 22023.05 (+465.38)	Zurich: SKA Gen 468.5 (-0.4)	Mar 92	90.04	90.07	90.01	90.03	9051	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Argill Gp 3,400	Fisons 3,800	NFC 366	Sears 2,400	Hong Kong: FT A All-Share 1227.84 (+8.96)	London: FT 100 1137.97 (-6.10)	Mar 92	90.33	90.37	90.32	90.35	2050	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Argo Wires 718	Forte 2,600	NatWst Br 4,300	Svra Trans 1,100	Hang Seng 4601.78 (-30.31)	FT-SE Euro 100 1137.97 (-6.10)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
AB Foods 374	GRE 3,900	NatWst Br 3,600	Svra Trans 3,600	Smith Nth 2,400	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.57	95.58	95.56	95.58	1438	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
BAA 1,200	GUS A 1,000	Nat Wst W 2,400	Svra Trans 14,000	Smith (W) 942	FT Fixed interest 100.64 (+0.02)	Mar 92	100.25	101.02	100.24	101.01	1077	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
BAT Inds 1,400	Gen Acc 1,100	Nthm Fds 540	Tarmac 1,600	FT Govt Secs 87.84 (-0.10)	FT Govt Secs 87.84 (-0.10)	Mar 92	97.11	97.17	97.03	97.15	27789	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
BET 3,400	Cct Elec 17,000	P & O 2,100	Tesco 4,900	Tomkins 539	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	97.13	97.19	97.13	97.22	701	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
BOC 1,200	Glass 3,400	Pearson 3,906	TSB 1,400	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	613	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
BP 8,100	Grand Met 3,800	Pilkington 2,900	TSB 1,400	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
BTR 6,600	Guinness 9,700	PowerGen 1,500	Tarmac 1,600	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Bk of Scot 1,300	Hanson 4,800	Prudential 6,500	Tate & Lyle 2,200	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Barclays 3,800	Hilldown 1,700	RMC 330	Tesco 4,900	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Barc 1,200	Inchcape 1,100	Rank Org 2,400	Thames W 3,500	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Boots 1,200	Kingfisher 2,600	Rockin Col 2,100	Tomkins 539	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brit Amm 4,900	Ladbrooke 3,000	Reed Int'l 3,600	Unilever 1,600	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brit Gas 4,600	Land Secs 2,300	Rental 39	Undevel 1,200	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brit Steel 4,400	Laporte 402	Reuters 1,700	Vodafone 2,500	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brit Tele 3,200	Legal & Gs 1,000	Rolls Royce 11,000	Wellcome 1,100	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
British 9,100	Mitro Cardin 393	Ryli Brk Ins 1,700	Wills Crm 659	USM (Datastrm) 139.48 (-0.81)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	102.66	102.75	102.66	102.72	104	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Scot 1,300	Courtaulds 4,200	MEPC 637	Sainsbury 3,000	Dow Jones 3232.56 (-12.30)	General 5841.88 (+15.25)	Period Mar 92	Open 2600.0	High 2616.0	Low 2592.0	Close 2604.0	Volume 9970	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Eng 1,200	Enterpr Oil 740	Marks Spr 4,200	Scott & New 1,400	S&P Composite 410.05 (-1.58)	Paris: CAC 504.72 (-2.44)	Mar 92	89.73	89.74	89.64	89.67	28782	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Fr 1,200	Euromil U 178	Midland Br 2,900	Scott Power 3,500	Tokyo: Nikkei Avge 22023.05 (+465.38)	Zurich: SKA Gen 468.5 (-0.4)	Mar 92	90.04	90.07	90.01	90.03	9051	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Gb 1,200	Fisons 3,800	NFC 366	Sears 2,400	Hong Kong: FT A All-Share 1227.84 (+8.96)	London: FT 100 1137.97 (-6.10)	Mar 92	90.33	90.37	90.32	90.35	2050	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Argo Wires 718	Forte 2,600	NatWst Br 4,300	Hang Seng 4601.78 (-30.31)	FT-SE Euro 100 1137.97 (-6.10)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Argill Gp 3,400	GUS A 1,000	Nthm Fds 540	FT-SE Euro 100 1137.97 (-6.10)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77	95.79	956	Close 90.9	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months	1 month 3 months					
Brk of Irl 1,200	Bet 3,400	Gen Acc 1,100	NTm Fds 540	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	FT Gold Mines 144.3 (-1.8)	Mar 92	95.79	95.80	95.77															

England cricketers battle off the ropes to complete a dramatic turnaround in second Test at Eden Park

Lewis and Pringle send New Zealand reeling

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

ONE barely believable evening session, in which New Zealand contrived to lose seven wickets, sent the first Test match of this tour, ten days ago. Another, with as much drama and as many wickets, may prove to have decided the second.

The difference between the games, however, is stark. In Christchurch, on a bland pitch, England were well ahead on points throughout but reserved the knockout punch until the final bell was almost due. Here at Eden Park, they were themselves on the canvas early in the first round.

On a surface which can only have been prepared to eliminate the draw, the odds had been stacked against England since Graham Gooch lost the toss. At nine

for three, and even 91 for six, they looked close to insurmountable, but the recovery has been sustained in the persevering style demanded of any side captained by Graham Gooch.

It began with tail-end batting of great resolution, the last four wickets adding 112 to more than double the score and attain the psychological middle-ground of 200. It continued with bowling of skill and consistency from Chris Lewis and Derek Pringle, finally rewarded during a chaotic last 90 minutes as New Zealand plunged from 91 for two to 139 for nine.

The bowlers could not quite finish the job before yesterday's close but will have spent a contented evening pondering a first-innings lead in excess of 50, a luxury for

which England would have given much, at any stage of the opening day.

For all the trouble that the batsmen encountered on day one, there was always the suspicion that it might have been worse. Yesterday's events, when conditions were markedly less malicious, bore this out. New Zealand, batting first, might not have made 100 against this England attack; against an imaginary pairing of Snow and Hadlee, two interested onlookers, either side might have struggled to pass 75.

England's selection of Pringle, ahead of Lawrence, has already been vindicated. There is no great pace in this pitch and although the bounce is variable, as Wright discovered when his left index finger was badly bruised by a good-length ball from Lewis, the main danger is from the sideways movement achieved by those who drop the ball on the right spot.

Pringle and Lewis both did this admirably. DeFreitas, it must be said, did not. His length was persistently and uninterestingly short, his line too frequently strayed towards leg side and his two wickets were presented by poor shots rather than earned by good balls.

Having made such notable advances last summer, maturing from a frustrated under-achiever into a new-ball bowler of class, this tour has seen a reversion to the DeFreitas of old. He has been causing some niggling injuries and may be playing in discomfort but in yesterday's conditions he did himself no justice.

Lewis, his former Leicestershire colleague, has seldom, if ever, bowled better in a Test match. From the outset, he made the batsmen play more frequently than DeFreitas and, after dismissing Hardland leg-before in his second over, he sent Wright to hospital for precautionary x-rays in his fifth.

Jones clubbed a short one from DeFreitas to cover but Rutherford, given a warm re-



On the attack: Lewis looks menacing on his follow-through as he passes Wright at Eden Park yesterday

ception by a crowd which grew to around 5,000, joined his captain in a stand of 56, the highest of the match so far. It ended with Rutherford, having just pulled DeFreitas for four, gloving a catch to Russell as he aimed a repeat.

Crowe, batting as convincingly as anyone in the game, had nevertheless needed the benefit of two tight leg-before decisions to reach 45 before a good one from Lewis had him well caught, low down at second slip, by Hick. England, however, could have no complaints about the umpiring

during a bizarre last half-hour in which Steve Dunne, the possessor of a military moustache and a most unusual style of giving decisions, sent three New Zealanders incedulously on their way.

It was not so much the decisions he gave which made Dunne the butt of some hostile boozing by the crowd. Replays indicated that all three were correct. It was the way he gave them which was so curious.

Cairns' dismissal was a freak. Driving at Tufnell, in the game's third over of spin,

his shot ballooned off the boot of Smith, fielding at silly mid-off, to Hick at cover. England claimed the catch. Dunne gave it out after several seconds' thought and Cairns decided to walk only after several seconds more.

After Parore had padded up to Pringle and departed, second ball, for his first no-ball in first-class cricket, Dunne became involved again in an extraordinary over from Lewis which contained two no-balls, two wickets and only four legitimate balls.

Dunne dispatched Patel and Morrison leg-before from consecutive balls and, although both looked valid, the halting fashion in which the latter was adjudged infuriated the crowd and possibly disoriented the umpire.

It ended in confusion but it ended triumphantly for England, whose rally had first been nourished by Pringle, Russell and even Tufnell during a morning on which Cairns completed the second, but undoubtedly not the last, five-wicket collection of his Test career.

SNOOKER

Hendry's mission to find his old form

By PHIL YATES

WITH the world championship countdown ticking away, Stephen Hendry is no doubt well aware that victory in the Benson and Hedges Masters, which begins its eight-day run at Wembley Conference Centre tomorrow, would be an invaluable credit deposit to his recently depleted reserves of confidence.

While Steve Davis returned as a force with three tournament wins since mid-December, and John Parrott added the UK championship to his world title, Hendry struggled to achieve the form that enabled him to earn a record £646,000 during the 1990-1 season.

Hendry has captured the Masters title three times in succession since he first competed in 1989, and has remained unbeaten for 12 matches. Given these impressive statistics, it is fair to assume that defeat, especially by Davis or Parrott, would be hard to swallow.

Despite his form, Hendry, whose first opponent is Martin Clark, the world No. 14, has been made favourite for the £105,000 first prize by the leading bookmakers. Should he justify their faith he will be the first player to defend a major title successively three times since Davis did so at the 1987 UK Open.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan in fixture dilemma

WHILE uncertainty, like the overnight fog, continues to shroud tomorrow's remaining first-round ties in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, the holders, Wigan, expect to play at Salford, who are using heaters to thaw out the ground (Keith Macklin writes).

Wigan's players go into the game knowing that, win or draw, nobody will play for Great Britain against France on February 16. The Rugby Football League decided that Wigan must represent Great Britain in the Sydney world sevens next weekend, the date of the second-round ties. Wigan will thus play their second-round tie on the day of the international.

Another game which seems certain to be the frost is the glamour tie, Widnes against St Helens. And

the underground heating at Headingley will ensure Leeds' home first division match against their neighbours, Castleford, goes ahead.

Spur for India to confound Border

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN PERTH

ALLAN Border was back in the nets with his team here yesterday as they prepared for today's fifth and final Test match against India. Kapil Dev was looking forward to taking the three wickets he needed to reach 400 in Tests, and even looking ahead to his 500th. Tony Crafter was contemplating becoming Australia's most "capped" Test umpire and for the ninth time in January the Perth temperature topped 100°F.

It is a long time since the

Australians were anything other than selectorially conservative. The days are gone when they went for young blood. Their side has tended recently to be something of a closed shop, like England's, but they do have a selection committee, and this week, for better or worse, it asserted itself, much to Border's annoyance.

Crafter's Test match will be his 33rd, one more than Bob Crockett, who stood for the first time in 1901, when one batsman in the match was out leg-before, and for the last in 1925, when seven

were. Crafter's first was in 1978, since when, he says, the pressure has got stronger year by year, and the appealing noticeably more aggressive.

Border asserts that the reason why Australia are three matches to none up in the series is not because of the umpiring but because India have been outplayed. Not many would agree with that, and India's incentive today is to confound him.

Hardly surprisingly, in view of the way the fourth Test match went, the Indians have come to believe, more

AUSTRALIA

New Zealand won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

	6s	4s	Min	Balls
G A Gooch c Parore b Morrison	4	1	13	12
Eden Park bowled b Cairns	1	0	10	10
A J Stewart c Parore b Cairns	4	1	18	11
Edged attempt, drive	0	0	1	1
G A Hick lbw b Cairns	30	3	130	88
Replay on back foot	0	0	1	1
R A Lamb c Parore b Cairns	0	0	2	1
Played across late cutswinger	13	3	47	26
A J Lamb b Su'a	13	3	47	26
Played on attempting back-foot force	22	2	104	87
D A Rees c Parore b Watson	22	2	104	87
C C Lewis c Cairns b Watson	33	6	89	57
Cut hard and low to right of gully	1	0	1	1
T R Russell c Parore b Cairns	33	3	135	101
Edged into leg	0	0	1	1
D R Wright c Parore b Cairns	41	1	4	124
Played across line	1	0	0	18
P A J DeFreitas c Crowe b Cairns	1	0	0	17
Missed to wide mid-on	6	0	0	26
P C R Tufnell not out	0	0	0	13
Extras (lb 11, nb 5)	18	0	0	203
Total (359 min, 83 overs)	203	0	0	0

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9 (Gooch); 2-9 (Stewart); 3-9 (Smith); 4-31 (Lamb); 5-72 (Hick); 6-91 (Rees); 7-128 (Lowe); 8-165 (Russell); 9-171 (DeFreitas); 10-203 (Pringle)

BOWLING: Morrison 17-2-55 (2 nb); 1-102, 4-10-2, 7-1-15-1, 24-0-9, 5-2-19; Watson 24-14-4-4-4-40

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: First day: Start delayed until 2.15pm by rain; 50-92 min, 19 overs. Tea: 95-2 (Hick 22, Rees 15) in 25 overs; 100-192, 43 overs. Second day: 150-279 min, 64.4 overs. 200-352 min, 81.2 overs.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

	6s	4s	Min	Balls
B J Hartland bowled b Lewis	0	0	0	14
Eden Park bowled b Lewis	0	0	0	14
J G Wright b Pringle	15	0	2	93
Played on, pushing forward	0	2	65	40
A H Jones c Pringle b DeFreitas	14	0	2	105
Cut long-hops to cover	0	0	1	1
T R Russell c Pringle b Lewis	45	0	5	135
Edged to second slip	26	0	4	84
K Rutherford bowled b DeFreitas	26	0	5	82
Gloved hook	24	0	5	80
D N Patel bowled b Lewis	0	0	0	13
Eden Park bowled b Lewis	0	0	0	13
C L Cairns c Hick b Tufnell	1	0	0	6
Caught at cover via silly point's boot	0	0	0	9
T A Parore bowled b Pringle	0	0	0	2
Playing no shot	0	0	0	1812
M L Su'a not out	0	0	0	97
Extras (13 nb)	13	0	0	0
Total (9 wks, 252 min, 61 overs)	141	0	0	0
Wright (5) retired hurt at 13-1 (10 overs) and returned at 91-3 (41 overs).	0	0	0	0

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (Hartland); 2-25 (Jones); 3-81 (Rutherford); 4-102 (Parore); 5-123 (Wright); 6-124 (Cairns); 7-139 (Parore); 8-139 (Morrison)

BOWLING: DeFreitas 16-2-53 (2 nb); 6-10-10, 5-15-1, 5-28-1; Lewis 20-4-31 (2 nb); 6-12-1, 10-21-1, 2-25-2; Pringle 14-7-23 (2 nb); 7-8-8; Rees 7-12-0 (one spell); Tufnell 4-16-1 (one spell)

INTERMEDIATE SCORES: Lunch: 0-0 (Hartland 0, Wright 0) in 2 overs; 50-104 min, 24.1 overs. Tea: 55-2 (Crowe 20, Rutherford 8) in 31 overs; 100-173 min, 42.2 overs

Umpires: B L Aldridge and R S Dunne.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

First division

Aston Villa v Birmingham

Second division

Blackburn v Swindon (all tucker).

Brighton v Charlton

Bristol City v Barnsley

Middlesex v Grimsby

Sheffield v Preston

Third division

Blackburn v Swindon (all tucker).

Bolton v Exeter

Fulham v Bolton

Huddersfield v Preston

Hull v Hartlepoo

Peterborough v Reading

Shrewsbury v Darlington

Stoke v Swans

Torquay v Bradford

West Bromwich v Brentford

Fourth division

Blackpool v Barnet

Carlsbad v Wrexham

Change of mind may pay dividends for German golfer

Langer's late charge puts him in familiar territory

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN BANGKOK

BERNHARD Langer moved into familiar territory when, with a second round of 66, he earned a share of the halfway lead in the Johnnie Walker Classic on the Pinehurst course here yesterday.

He transformed his score with five birdies in the last seven holes which enabled him to move alongside Steven Richardson, who had a 70, and Ian Palmer, of South Africa, with 67, on 133, 11 under par.

Langer was delighted to finish so strongly although he was only continuing where he left off last season. Then, he won more money than anybody with \$2,185,358 in official prize money.

He initially had no intention of playing here. "I was going to have two months off but I started practising in Florida then decided to come here," he said. What is more, he has had to adjust to a dramatic change in temperature after spending last week skiing in Colorado.

Langer considers himself to be a scratch handicap skier. That might be so, but he unquestionably made the right career decision when as a schoolboy he went along to the local golf club to caddie.

Langer, along the way, has had to overcome a well-documented attack of the putting yips. He has achieved this most recently by grasping his left arm with his right hand to lock the left wrist.

The Pinehurst greens are difficult to read, especially in the afternoon when the bermuda grass begins to stick up higher, making putts into the grain particularly difficult. Langer, however, mastered the greens and he holed five times from between nine and 15 feet for birdies over the closing stretch.

That enabled the German to catch Richardson and Palmer, who faltered in the morning following an astonishing start when he was seven under par after six holes. It was the greens which eventually ruined Palmer's thrust as he took three putts at the 9th, 10th and 18th holes.

Richardson, too, had difficulty in reading the greens but he took it in stride. "I'm not blaming the greens," he said. "It was just me."

Peter O'Malley (63) and Brett Ogle (66), both of Australia, moved to within one shot of the lead. O'Malley emulated Richardson, who scored 63 on Thursday, in equalising the course record, with ten birdies.

Nick Faldo made progress with a 67. Severiano Ballesteros lost ground with a 74 and Ian Woosnam, who scored 69, felt he had recovered from food poisoning.



View from the top: Langer, left, and Richardson share the lead in Bangkok

took him alongside Roman Rafferty (68) and Vijay Singh (67), of Fiji, on 135. Rafferty made three of his six birdies with well-executed chips.

Mais Lanner, of Sweden, became the first player on the 1992 European circuit to pocket a cheque. He earned, for a hole in one with a five-iron at the 16th, one with a five-iron at the 18th and one with a six-iron at the 19th.

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Nick Faldo was hoping to reap the reward of playing six weeks in Australia. He was rarely in trouble during a second round of 65 which

took him alongside Roman Rafferty (68) and Vijay Singh (67), of Fiji, on 135. Rafferty made three of his six birdies with well-executed chips.

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JUDO

Sweatman springs a surprise

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

ROWENA Sweatman, from Manchester University, strangled unconscious Italy's world middleweight champion, Emanuele Pierantozzi, on her way to winning a bronze medal yesterday on the opening day of the Tournoi de Paris.

It happened in the third round with the Italian set to proceed to the next round. Pierantozzi, at 5ft 10in, towered over Sweatman who, for the first two minutes, was doing well to only concede knockdown scores. In a manoeuvre midway through the match, they went to the ground and Sweatman reached up to Pierantozzi's neck, wound first one arm and then the other around it, and applied pressure. The referee separated them when it was obvious that the Italian was no longer able to submit.

It was with the same technique — *sode jime* — that Sweatman used to win her first fight, against Beatrice Hebrard, of France. But her semi-final opponent, Min Sun Choi, of Korea, was forewarned and treated Sweatman with respect before going ahead with a five-point score from a throw.

Sharon Lee, from Birmingham, also found herself in the bronze-medal fight in the heavyweight division. She won her first two bouts, but found herself launched spectacularly by the much smaller Japanese, Yoko Sakurai.

Memory of chariot power

BY KEN LAWRENCE

HAVING six tries run in against you in an international is not something you readily forget. Hugo MacNeill has not forgotten. I caught the former Irish full back on the run this week, flying from London to Belgium to Ireland and then to Scotland, before making it back to London today in time for the five nations' match between England and his old team, Twickenham, he recalled, will forever hold special memories for him. He won his 37th and last cap there in 1988. Ireland led 3-0 at the interval and then something happened that shrivelled the Shamrocks. Oti ran in three tries, England mustered six in all and the crowd changed from silent onlookers to singing, swinging supporters as Ireland were thrashed 35-3.

This was the day Twickenham discovered its choir and its anthem. As Rob Andrew, with his calibrated kicking, orchestrated attack upon attack, the crowd responded with "Sway Low, Sweet Chariot". They had sung spasmodically before, but this was different, moving, and for the Irish, unnerving. "Twickenham," MacNeill recalls, "had a great history and a tradition, but I think most of us felt it had the least atmosphere, the least passion and noise of any of the international grounds. It was my perception that they were more spectators than supporters — until that afternoon. I think it was the first day they sang their song. In the second half, Rob seemed almost to be conducting the

THE WEEK IN VIEW

crowd: he got them to such a pitch that they had to express themselves."

Air traffic controllers and weather controllers and MacNeill will be joining yesterday's hero, Paul Ackford, in Grandstand this afternoon (BBC1 from 12.15) as backup to the Bill McLaren-Bill Beaumont team.

Europcar (2.25pm) will be exploring whether the Welsh revival is for real, covering their match with France live. The BBC will show highlights from Cardiff in Grandstand after the England game and both will come in for *Rugby Special* analysis tomorrow (BBC2 5pm). The programme has been extended and revamped, and is proving a success following the ITV coverage of the World Cup, which brought in a new rugby audience. Around one million tuned in last season. Now *Rugby Special* draws 1.6 million. It just goes to show what a little competition can do.

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Screengrant (8pm) show highlights of the Thailand golf classic and Sky Sports (5pm) replace their regular rugby league match with live rugby league match with Lewis' light in Las Vegas against Lew Wallace.

MONDAY: There is £105,000 for the winner of the Benson and Hedges Masters, which is a vital part of the racing year, built up to the Grand National. The BBC1 and 2 (11.20pm) First-day highlights from the third Test in New Zealand on Eurosport (6.30pm). The winner of the Benson and Hedges Masters, which is a vital part of the racing year, built up to the Grand National. The BBC1 and 2 (11.20pm) First-day highlights from the third Test in New Zealand on Eurosport (6.30pm). A new 60-minute magazine programme on rugby league makes its debut on Sky Sports (7pm). "It will be outspoken, in the cohort. Eddie McGuire, the programme's Friday host, from Pebble Beach, snooker from Wembley and cricket from Wellington plus a preview to Sunday's Olympic downhill ski race to be included in Sport on Friday (8pm). Sportsworld (8.30pm) is back on BBC1. 10.30pm) rounds up all the FA Cup replay action in a programme, which includes Benson and Hedges

TUESDAY: West Ham's FA Cup replay at Wrexham is live on Sky Sports (7pm). Eurosport show live from Stockholm on Eurosport (6.30-7.30pm).

WEDNESDAY: Another big FA Cup replay — Manchester United v Chelsea. Eurosport has sling and also the four men's bobalongs from the European championships (8pm), which will be guide to Winter Olympic fortunes.

Scholfield booked for early success

POINT-TO-POINT

BY BRIAN BEECH

ON the opening day of the new point-to-point season, it should not take Philip Scholfield long to get off the mark as he is due to partner Ballyeddy in the first race at the North Cornwall.

His intended mount in the open, Golden Link, is unlikely to have such an easy task.

Golden Link returns after missing last season and is likely to be the former Midland Grand National winner, Midnight Madness, too good for him.

Lovely Citizen, the Cheltenham Foxhounds' winner, was soundly trounced at Punchestown by Cool It A Bit, who was winning his second race in 24 hours on this course.

Cool It A Bit, now with Tivedsdown specialist rider Philip Scouller, will not be easy to beat in the open race at the Staff College and RMA Drag Hunt. His opponents, however, could include the Heythrop winner Dromin Joker and three times hunter chase winner, Elver Season.

Midnight Madness, (7s),

7s, 8s, 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, 17s, 18s, 19s, 20s, 21s, 22s, 23s, 24s, 25s, 26s, 27s, 28s, 29s, 30s, 31s, 32s, 33s, 34s, 35s, 36s, 37s, 38s, 39s, 40s, 41s, 42s, 43s, 44s, 45s, 46s, 47s, 48s, 49s, 50s, 51s, 52s, 53s, 54s, 55s, 56s, 57s, 58s, 59s, 60s, 61s, 62s, 63s, 64s, 65s, 66s, 67s, 68s, 69s, 70s, 71s, 72s, 73s, 74s, 75s, 76s, 77s, 78s, 79s, 80s, 81s, 82s, 83s, 84s, 85s, 86s, 87s, 88s, 89s, 90s, 91s, 92s, 93s, 94s, 95s, 96s, 97s, 98s, 99s, 100s, 101s, 102s, 103s, 104s, 105s, 106s, 107s, 108s, 109s, 110s, 111s, 112s, 113s, 114s, 115s, 116s, 117s, 118s, 119s, 120s, 121s, 122s, 123s, 124s, 125s, 126s, 127s, 128s, 129s, 130s, 131s, 132s, 133s, 134s, 135s, 136s, 137s, 138s, 139s, 140s, 141s, 142s, 143s, 144s, 145s, 146s, 147s, 148s, 149s, 150s, 151s, 152s, 153s, 154s, 155s, 156s, 157s, 158s, 159s, 160s, 161s, 162s, 163s, 164s, 165s, 166s, 167s, 168s, 169s, 170s, 171s, 172s, 173s, 174s, 175s, 176s, 177s, 178s, 179s, 180s, 181s, 182s, 183s, 184s, 185s, 186s, 187s, 188s, 189s, 190s, 191s, 192s, 193s, 194s, 195s, 196s, 197s, 198s, 199s, 200s, 201s, 202s, 203s, 204s, 205s, 206s, 207s, 208s, 209s, 210s, 211s, 212s, 213s, 214s, 215s, 216s, 217s, 218s, 219s, 220s, 221s, 222s, 223s, 224s, 225s, 226s, 227s, 228s, 229s, 230s, 231s, 232s, 233s, 234s, 235s, 236s, 237s, 238s, 239s, 240s, 241s, 242s, 243s, 244s, 245s, 246s, 247s, 248s, 249s, 250s, 251s, 252s, 253s, 254s, 255s, 256s, 257s, 258s, 259s, 260s, 261s, 262s, 263s, 264s, 265s, 266s, 267s, 268s, 269s, 270s, 271s, 272s, 273s, 274s, 275s, 276s, 277s, 278s, 279s, 280s, 281s, 282s, 283s, 284s, 285s, 286s, 287s, 288s, 289s, 290s, 291s, 292s, 293s, 294s, 295s, 296s, 297s, 298s, 299s, 300s, 301s, 302s, 303s, 304s, 305s, 306s, 307s, 308s, 309s, 310s, 311s, 312s, 313s, 314s, 315s, 316s, 317s, 318s, 319s, 320s, 321s, 322s, 323s, 324s, 325s, 326s, 327s, 328s, 329s, 330s, 331s, 332s, 333s, 334s, 335s, 336s, 337s, 338s, 339s, 340s, 341s, 342s, 343s, 344s, 345s, 346s, 347s, 348s, 349s, 350s, 351s, 352s, 353s, 354s, 355s, 356s, 357s, 358s, 359s, 360s, 361s, 362s, 363s, 364s, 365s, 366s, 367s, 368s, 369s, 370s, 371s, 372s, 373s, 374s, 375s, 376s, 377s, 378s, 379s, 380s, 381s, 382s, 383s, 384s, 385s, 386s, 387s, 388s, 389s, 390s, 391s, 392s, 393s, 394s, 395s, 396s, 397s, 398s, 399s, 400s, 401s, 402s, 403s, 404s, 405s, 406s, 407s, 408s, 409s, 410s, 411s, 412s, 413s, 414s, 415s, 416s, 417s, 418s, 419s, 420s, 421s, 422s, 423s, 424s, 425s, 426s, 427s, 428s, 429s, 430s, 431s, 432s, 433s, 434s, 435s, 436s, 437s, 438s, 439s, 440s, 441s, 442s, 443s, 444s, 445s, 446s, 447s, 448s, 449s, 450s, 451s, 452s, 453s, 454s, 455s, 456s, 457s, 458s, 459s, 460s, 461s, 462s, 463s, 464s, 465s, 466s, 467s, 468s, 469s, 470s, 471s, 472s, 473s, 474s, 475s, 476s, 477s, 478s, 479s, 480s, 481s, 482s, 483s, 484s, 485s, 486s, 487s, 488s, 489s, 490s, 491s, 492s, 493s, 494s, 495s, 496s, 497s, 498s, 499s, 500s, 501s, 502s, 503s, 504s, 505s, 506s, 507s, 508s, 509s, 510s, 511s, 512s, 513s, 514s, 515s, 516s, 517s, 518s, 519s, 520s, 521s, 522s, 523s, 524s, 525s, 526s, 527s, 528s, 529s, 530s, 531s, 532s, 533s, 534s, 535s, 536s, 537s, 538s, 539s, 540s, 541s, 542s, 543s, 544s, 545s, 546s, 547s, 548s, 549s, 550s, 551s, 552s, 553s, 554s, 555s, 556s, 557s, 558s, 559s, 560s, 561s, 562s, 563s, 564s, 565s, 566s, 567s, 568s, 569s, 570s, 571s, 572s, 573s, 574s, 575s, 576s, 577s, 578s, 579s, 580s, 581s, 582s, 583s, 584s, 585s, 586s, 587s, 588s, 589s, 590s, 591s, 592s, 593s, 594s, 595s, 596s, 597s, 598s, 599s, 600s, 601s, 602s, 603s, 604s, 605s, 606s, 607s, 608s, 609s, 610s, 611s, 612s, 613s, 614s, 615s, 616s, 617s, 618s, 619s, 620s, 621s, 622s, 623s, 624s, 625

RUGBY UNION

Problems of the French should ease Welsh fear

BY GERALD DAVIES

WHAT a difference one win makes. Before Wales trot out onto the Cardiff Arms Park to play France this afternoon, the Welsh players, ever since their victory against Ireland, have been talking guardedly about not being over-confident.

Wales? Over-confident? This is certainly a novel experience for all the Welsh players who, in the last few years of recurring failure, have greeted each coming game with nothing less than trepidation. Fear, almost.

Acceptance as mere cannon-fodder by all and sundry, has had a debilitating effect on their spirit. Failure bred loss of confidence, which reinforced failure. To reverse this so that success brings confidence and confidence success, is the dilemma for the Welsh.

Until Dublin, Wales could not change the pattern. They were in the groove of failure. Having momentarily shifted out of this, Alan Davies' concern as Welsh coach will have been to ensure that the new sense of wellbeing, that even a solitary victory brings, is not short-lived.

Can he build on it? Another sound performance and another win will, suddenly, make his players feel psychologically "good" for a change. If he is to do this, his Welsh team has to reverse another undeviating trend. That is, to see if they can beat France for the first time since 1982. Last year in Paris, France achieved a record 36-3 victory, with Serge Blanco scoring first and last in his final Pari des Princes appearance in the five nations' championship. But, for the first time since 1980, they are without

the great man and the magnificent influence he had. France, too, are not free of problems.

Eight of their team have not played in the championship; there are only six survivors from last season's team against Wales and Penaud (stand-off) Vians (wing) and Mougeot (lock) play for their country for the first time.

It is not a tall pack of the kind we have become accustomed to of late. Mobility, they say, is the key. Pierre Berbier is now the coach, not Dubroca; Sella, the captain.

If Wales, who include six from Swansea, are to make headway in the future they must start winning at home, as doubtful a prospect recently as if they were playing away. To win away is the bonus. Wales have already achieved that precious victory but it will count as nothing if they now fall on their own

match. Wales could not change the pattern. They were in the groove of failure. Having momentarily shifted out of this, Alan Davies' concern as Welsh coach will have been to ensure that the new sense of wellbeing, that even a solitary victory brings, is not short-lived.

Can he build on it? Another sound performance and another win will, suddenly, make his players feel psychologically "good" for a change.

If he is to do this, his Welsh team has to reverse another undeviating trend. That is, to see if they can beat France for the first time since 1982. Last year in Paris, France achieved a record 36-3 victory, with Serge Blanco scoring first and last in his final Pari des Princes appearance in the five nations' championship. But, for the first time since 1980, they are without



Team man: Winterbottom, left, beside his England colleague, Bayfield, joins his captain, Carling, 13, and Webb, 15, in discussion

Man of few words and mighty deeds

David Hands recognises the qualities that bring Peter Winterbottom to a milestone in English rugby today

WHEN he started his representative career, Peter Winterbottom, a Yorkshireman through and through, was asked why he had played for Lancashire Schools: "Yorkshire never asked me," he replied. Straight question, characteristically straight answer.

Ten years later, he becomes the second England player to reach 50 caps (the first, Roy Underwood, was also born in Yorkshire) when he runs out at Twickenham against Ireland today. It might have been more. But throughout his international career other players, men of considerable ability, have briefly taken his place and then receded while Winterbottom has gone on and on.

There was David Cooke, of Harlequins; Andy Robinson, of Bath; and the running battle with Gary Rees, of Nottingham, with whom there was some compromise when England decided both Rees and Winterbottom, essentially open-side flankers, could be played on a left and right system.

But this season will be Winterbottom's last, as it will be for several of his colleagues in today's XV. At

31, he was tempted to call it a day after the World Cup final: "The main reason I didn't was because I felt I still had the enthusiasm for another season of international rugby."

"I admit that a week went by before I trained again after the final but with so many of the other guys carrying on, I thought, 'why not? If we had won the final I probably would have retired but there was the extra challenge of trying to win back-to-back grand slams. But after this season, that's it. I'll have another season with Harlequins and then, who knows?"

Winterbottom is a man of few words. Ask him if he would enjoy leading out the England team to mark his fiftieth appearance — as Underwood did in the World Cup semi-final at Murrayfield — and he will shrug his shoulders.

When England put together a back row of Winterbottom, Dean Richards

and Mike Teague — as they did throughout 1991 when winning a grand slam — it was probably one of the quietest trios in English history. All three preferred to get on with the game, avoid the media and do the job they knew they did well alongside players for whom they had the greatest respect.

Of the three, Richards was and is the most perceptive, the most natural ball-player. But Winterbottom has survived in an increasingly competitive environment because of his sheer capacity for physical endurance and an iron attitude towards opponents; this has to be the result of his experience in New Zealand in the summer of 1982, when his career was taking off.

He counts Graham Higginson, the New Zealand lock and his captain at Hawke's Bay, as the hardest man he came across. "That was most important," because I had not really played

and Mike Teague — as they did throughout 1991 when winning a grand slam — it was probably one of the quietest trios in English history. All three preferred to get on with the game, avoid the media and do the job they knew they did well alongside players for whom they had the greatest respect.

But always he returned for more. In 1988 he made himself unavailable for England's summer tour to Australia and Fiji so that he could play a season in South Africa. He made the Transvaal senior side, an achievement notable in a country where back-row forwards tend to come a size or two larger than Winterbottom's 6ft and 15st, and impressed with the destructive power of his tackling.

It comes as no surprise that the two opponents he most admires are not physical giants themselves: Michael Jones (in the strength of one match, against New Zealand in the World Cup) and Jean-Pierre Rives, the French flanker ("I never saw Rives take a backward step").

South Africans enjoyed

Winterbottom's ball-handling part of his game

which attracted initial criticism (though subsequent improvement was seldom acknowledged). He came home tired and injured, and Robinson seized the opportunity to play an international season. At the same time Winterbottom moved: "I didn't like London, I didn't like Harlequins, I didn't like southerners," he says wryly. So he came to live in London, joined the Quins (whom he now captains) and found a job in the money market.

Winterbottom has been good to Winterbottom but perhaps no more than ten years of consistent play and sometimes maniac commitment deserve. He had found a game like no other in which he could thrive; at times, he will admit, there was nothing else. Now his horizons are broader.

"When he goes there will be a huge hole to fill," Geoff Cooke, the England manager, said. Winterbottom, you will strum his shoulders again in the knowledge that there have always been challengers for his place — only off.

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Winterbottom's ball-handling part of his game

Troubled Eubank may limit his power

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Eubank faces the toughest challenge of his career at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, tonight when he defends his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title against Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga of South Africa.

This will be his first bout since his last opponent, Michael Watson, suffered severe head injuries and underwent an emergency operation five months ago.

It is unlikely that Eubank will be the same force tonight. Few boxers have been in the same after being involved in ring tragedies.

However much Eubank presents himself as a hard man on the outside, he appears a troubled man inside. He prays for Watson's complete recovery, yet reacts angrily when asked about his past few weeks. Eubank has striven to dispel the arrogant image projected by the press. In the past he was seldom available for personal interviews, but recently he has been only too ready to talk to journalists, even singly, and has taken time off to appear on chat shows.

"In my mind I have accepted what happened. It was unfortunate but I have accepted it," Eubank said. "I don't like what I do. This business is not sport. This is blood business. I have to be ruthless. I am well aware misfortune can happen, terrible things can happen in the ring as I have found out. But I have to put it aside and do everything to win this fight."

It hardly seems the behaviour of a man unconcerned about what could happen if he unleashed his full force on an opponent specially chosen by himself. Even Malinga's manager, Mike Segal, was impressed by Eubank. "He is a class act," Segal said after sneaking into one of Eubank's impromptu press conferences.

Eubank will be in a better frame of mind now that Watson has been moved from St Bartholomew's Hospital to a rehabilitation unit where he is showing some improvement.

Eubank's approach to this fight will depend on how Malinga reacts to the first stiff jabs from him. If the South African is easy to jab or outbox, Eubank will be unlikely to go for a knock-out. Malinga, a 31-year-old Zulu, is, according to the experts, not much more than a good trier. He has lost six of his 39 contests. He is not a heavy puncher and has been picked to allow Eubank to win without going all out.

Eubank's trainer, Ronnie Davies, said the champion would not be pulling any punches, but it could be a case of Eubank doing just enough every round to stay comfortably in front.

□ Lennox Lewis, the British and European heavyweight champion, meets Levi Bellfield of California, in Las Vegas in the early hours of tomorrow morning, with the hope that victory will bring a world challenge later in the year.

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CARDIFF TEAMS

	Wales	France
A Clement (Captain)	15	Full back J-B Lafond (Peyre Côte)
I C Evans (Lions)	14	Right wing P Saint-André (Montauban)
N R Jenkins (Pembroke)	13	Right centre P Sella (Agen)
I S Gibbs (Scarlets)	12	Left centre F Mezel (Peyre Côte)
M R Hall (Cardiff)	11	Left wing S Vias (Béziers)
C J Stephens (Lions)	10	Stand-off A Penaud (Béziers)
R N Jones (Gwent)	9	Scrum half F Galthié (Cormiers)
M Griffiths (Cardiff)	1	Prop G Lascubé (Agen)
G R Jenkins (Scarlets)	2	Hooker V Moscato (Béziers)
L Delaney (Lions)	3	Prop P Gilbert (Béziers)
E W Lewis (Lions)	6	Flanker J-F Tordj (Nantes)
G O Llewellyn (Wales)	4	Lock J-M Cadieu (Toulouse)
A H Copsey (Lions)	5	Lock C Mougeot (Béziers)
R E Webster (Scarlets)	7	Flanker L Cabannes (Peyre Côte)
S Davies (Scarlets)	8	No. 8 M Cécilien (Bourges)
Referee: O E Doyle (Ireland)		

REPLACEMENTS: 16 R H Sif, 17 B Moon, 18 J M Rayer (Cardiff), 19 D C Fox (Lions), 20 J D Joseph (Scarlets), 21 M S Morris (Wales)

SKIING

Kronberger's last chance

FROM DAVID POWELL IN GRINDELWALD

Marc Girardelli and Petra Kronberger are struggling for form. Girardelli says he is searching for a technical explanation, but Kronberger would seem to have an acceptable excuse if she wished to offer it.

The death of Alois Kahr, the Austrian women's technical coach, in a car accident in December, was added mental hurdle for Kronberger to clear. Though she competes in all disciplines, she leads the season in none and her overall World Cup crown, won in 1990 and 1991, is slipping.

Ski manufacturers and event sponsors want to get rid of the small events to develop a classic women's series. They want five star hotels and big projection, not places like Brigels, next year's Swiss venue.

Yesterday, the Pro Classic Association was set up here to lobby for change. "You would not try to make a Wimbledon tournament in a small town would you? But that is what is happening," one campaigner said.

□ Milan: Alberto Tomba, the leading Italian men's skier, will train on home slopes before and between the slalom races in France. The plan will limit Tomba's stay at the Olympic sites, reducing pressure from the media.

YACHTING

Challengers seek more competition

San Diego: As the eight challengers in the America's Cup trials here took a break from racing yesterday, their greatest concern is the lack of close competition (Barry Pickthall writes).

With margins as wide as 15 minutes between competitors, the leading teams — New Zealand, Il Moro di Venezia, from Italy, and Nippon, from Japan — are not getting the tough, close-competition racing the crews need to hone their skills before they take on the Americans.

The first round-robin series for the challengers, which has been beset by light, variable winds, has been in marked contrast to the opening defence round last year. Then, the largest margin was six minutes.

Paul Cayard, the skipper of Il Moro, and Chris Dickson, who leads the Japanese challenge, called for shorter races. RESULTS: FINN round: New Zealand (P. Thompson) 16, Il Moro di Venezia (P. Cayard) 17, Australia (G. Hunt) 18, Spain (J. Gómez) 19, France (P. Lemoine) 20, Italy (A. Sartori) 21, USA (D. Thompson) 22, Sweden (L. Larsson) 23, Canada (D. Thompson) 24, Switzerland (D. Wettstein) 25, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 26, Australia (D. Thompson) 27, France (P. Lemoine) 28, USA (D. Thompson) 29, Canada (D. Thompson) 30, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 31, Sweden (D. Thompson) 32, France (P. Lemoine) 33, USA (D. Thompson) 34, Canada (D. Thompson) 35, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 36, Sweden (D. Thompson) 37, France (P. Lemoine) 38, USA (D. Thompson) 39, Canada (D. Thompson) 40, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 41, Sweden (D. Thompson) 42, France (P. Lemoine) 43, USA (D. Thompson) 44, Canada (D. Thompson) 45, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 46, Sweden (D. Thompson) 47, France (P. Lemoine) 48, USA (D. Thompson) 49, Canada (D. Thompson) 50, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 51, Sweden (D. Thompson) 52, France (P. Lemoine) 53, USA (D. Thompson) 54, Canada (D. Thompson) 55, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 56, Sweden (D. Thompson) 57, France (P. Lemoine) 58, USA (D. Thompson) 59, Canada (D. Thompson) 60, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 61, Sweden (D. Thompson) 62, France (P. Lemoine) 63, USA (D. Thompson) 64, Canada (D. Thompson) 65, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 66, Sweden (D. Thompson) 67, France (P. Lemoine) 68, USA (D. Thompson) 69, Canada (D. Thompson) 70, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 71, Sweden (D. Thompson) 72, France (P. Lemoine) 73, USA (D. Thompson) 74, Canada (D. Thompson) 75, Norway (T. H. Hansen) 76, Sweden (

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Schmeichel's quality keeps United on course



Schmeichel: presence

Yhen it comes to cavalry football, Peter Schmeichel is a bit of a killjoy. It is not easy to practise the Brazilian philosophy of "you can score four, but we'll score five" when the huge figure of this truly great Dane is filling your goalmouth. Consequently, Manchester United do not try to any more.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had realised long before Schmeichel's arrival at Old Trafford in the summer that it was virtually impossible in this age of tactical cuteness to win the English League championship with the kind of free-spirited football for which the club had long been famous.

If United were finally to end the wait to bring the championship home again then the challenge needed a solid foundation, of which Schmeichel has quickly

emerged as the cornerstone. The theory that the Red Army would never tolerate success at the expense of beauty has been largely disproved, though players like Ryan Giggs, Andrei Kanchelskis and Neil Webb do much to satisfy the appetite of the stylists.

There will be those who believe that Schmeichel miscalculates the feelings of many United diehards, when he says: "If we won all our games 1-0 and we played badly in each of them, but won the league, the supporters wouldn't mind. Winning is what's important."

As for Schmeichel himself, he pleases the purists and pragmatists alike. Indeed, he looks too good to be true. The archetypal modern-day superstar. Scandinavian style. At 6ft 6in, with spiky blond hair, he looks as if he

might have just wandered from a *Rocky* film set. He has a presence and an outsize quality to match.

Nineteen clean sheets in 34 games is proof enough of his ability and a big reason why United, come February, are still in the running for three important trophies. Yet there was a time, four months ago, when he seriously doubted whether even this sort of success was worth the disruption caused to his family by uprooting them from Denmark.

Kaspar, his son, aged five, was particularly disorientated by the move and for a short while it affected

he did not need much convincing from fellow countrymen such as Jan Molby and John Siveback, who was well enough. It will take a year."

He came on the recommendation of Alan Hodgkinson, the goalkeeping coach, who told Ferguson that he was the best keeper in Europe, a view which Ferguson has come to share, though Schmeichel believes such things are all a matter of personal taste. Schmeichel himself admires Bruce Grobbelaar, to whom he is not dissimilar.

"I've always set myself targets and I've always reached them," he said. "When I arrived, I said to myself that I wanted to be the best in England. But it's not easy, there are some good goalkeepers here. I don't think I've improved as a player. In Denmark, I knew all my opponents and nearly every

time what they would try to do against me. I can't take chances here, because I don't know my opponents well enough. It will take a year."

Not even his experiences against England and Northern Ireland with the Danish national team, for whom he has made 40 odd appearances, prepared him for the physical ordeal he was to face in this country. He finds Jimmy Greaves's view that goalkeepers are an over-protected species laughable.

"I have so many bruises," he said. "I still forget that they are allowed to challenge you the way they do. But I'm not afraid. I'll be there one day and they're going to leave me alone, because they're going to hurt themselves."

Neither was he used to the volume of crosses, which

caused him a few problems in his early games, when he made the mistake of coming for everything and missed a few. A feature of his game has been his throw-outs, which are of a startling length and accuracy.

"We have to learn how to use it at the right time," he said. "Eventually, teams will learn to defend against it, but it also means that they won't be able to threaten us so much at corners."

It helped that he was an immediate hit with the supporters, who have dubbed him, inevitably, Peter the Great. "I will always remember the welcome they gave me, it was as though I had been a favourite for ten years," he said. "It's important. The job is hard enough without having the supporters against you." Jim Leighton, his ill-fated predecessor, would vouch for that.

Chelsea's interest raises questions over Dixon's place

Celtic reject £750,000 bid for unsettled Cascarino

By CLIVE WHITE

CELTIC have rejected a £750,000 bid from Chelsea for Tony Cascarino, their unsettled Republic of Ireland international, but Liam Brady, the Scottish club's manager, expects a renewed bid for the forward for whom he paid £1.1 million last summer.

Cascarino, who had a similarly unhappy time at Aston Villa, has scored just four goals — three of them as a substitute — since arriving in Glasgow and has yet to start a game this season. Even his role on the bench is under threat now with the recovery from injury of Charlie Nicholas.

Chelsea's interest in the big

target man seems to throw into question the position of Kerry Dixon, who has been linked with several clubs over the years and has recently been at odds with his game.

In another slightly firmer Anglo-Scots deal, Iosan Kozma, a Hungarian international, is set to join Liverpool from Dunfermline after the Scottish club's game against Aberdeen at Pittodrie today, providing a work permit can be obtained for the midfield player. A fee of £300,000 has been agreed between the clubs.

Marco Gabbiadini makes his debut for Derby County today against Portsmouth at Fratton Park following his £1.2 million move from Crys-

tal Palace. He said that it was not an easy decision to make.

It is something which had to happen. There were things at Palace which I cannot really comment on and which are best forgotten."

The position of Andy Gray, another player out of favour at Selhurst Park, is said to be "under review" after Palace announced they were prepared to listen to offers for the player who has been capped by England this season.

Contrary to reports, Everton are not one of those clubs interested in signing the midfield player. Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, had been quoted as saying that the Merseysiders had offered Tony Cottee and Pat Nevin in

part exchange but this has been refuted by Howard Kendall, the Everton manager.

Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, has also been upset by transfer talk in the Norwegian press concerning Erik Thorstvedt, his goalkeeper who recently lost his place in the team. It had been suggested that Thorstvedt's place in the national team had been placed under threat by Shreeves's decision to drop the player.

Aldershot players will boycott training from Monday after the club failed to pay their wages yesterday. Northampton's players are in a similar position but have been promised that they will be paid next week.

Steve Birley, the Aldershot secretary, said: "Unless money is forthcoming — and real money — this club will not be able to complete the season." The Hampshire club, which has debts of £800,000, faces a winding-up hearing in March and has had its bank accounts frozen.

The Football League has been assured by Rumbelows that its £5 million four-year sponsorship of the League Cup is safe despite large-scale redundancies within the electrical retail company and a £16-million loss last year.

The company announced yesterday that it will shed 800 of its 4,000-strong workforce. Mike Metcalfe, the chief executive of Thorn EMI Rental, said: "The Rumbelows name is not about to disappear."

Police question Blissett

GARY Blissett, the Brentford forward, was interviewed by police at Chiswick yesterday over a foul that left the Torquay United player-coach, John Uzzell, with a broken cheekbone.

"We are in the process of preparing a file which will be submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service early next week," a police spokesman said yesterday. "We hope to get a decision from them before the two clubs meet at Brentford on February 15."

Uzzell, 32, was taken off on a stretcher during a 1-1 draw between the third division sides in Torquay in December.

ber, and surgeons had to use a metal plate to rebuild his cheekbone. Blissett served an automatic three-match ban for the sending off.

Earlier this month, he escaped further punishment when he faced a Football Association disciplinary commission, which studied a video of the incident.

Sheffield FC, the world's oldest club, is facing closure after 135 years because of financial problems. The club, founded in 1857 and who play in the North Counties East league premier division, have been attracting only about 50 supporters to home

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1992

Experienced home side capable of bearing pressure of expectation

Irish lose forward power

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND return to Twickenham today for the first time since their gallant failure to lift rugby union's Webb Ellis Cup on November 2. They had a royal farewell after defeat in the final of the World Cup, and they will have a right royal welcome back for the five nations' championship match with Ireland from a public which has come to associate the national team with victory.

Once upon a time that burden would have rested heavily on the players' shoulders: now they have the experience to accept it. Although their home record took a knock from the southern hemisphere during the World Cup, they have not lost a championship match at Twickenham since 1988.

It is likely to be the last championship season for Twickenham in its present shape, nor the Rugby Football Union is expected to announce on Monday that building of a new East Stand, the second phase of the ground redevelopment programme, will begin in May.

It is five years since Ireland beat England in the championship and their hopes of breaking the spell were depressed yesterday when Des Fitzgerald, their senior tight forward since the dropping last week of Donal Lenihan, withdrew with a high temperature. Garry Hulpin, the London Irish tight-head prop, steps from the replacements to win his third cap.

"It's very unfortunate to lose a player of Des's experience so close to the game," Ken Reid, the Irish manager, said. "In particular he will be missed for his scumming ability, and it will also affect our strategy in the lineout."

Paul McCarthy, the uncapped Cork Constitution prop, was withdrawn from yesterday's B international to join the senior replacements.

In the last five matches between the countries, England have scored 16 tries against three and amassed 111 points against 23. "You can't disguise the fact about recent games with Ireland," Geoff Cooke, the England manager, said. "The players know they are overwhelming favourites, statistically speaking, and therein lies our problem. You are never sure the mental attitude is right until the game is under way."

Victory for England in a match sponsored by Save and Prosper will put them halfway towards a second successive grand slam. Defeat would cause the team management to revise their long-term plans.

Initially today England will bat down the hatches to ride the anticipated Irish storm. But such is the experience and depth of character



IN MOVE: De Glanville makes a break for England B, with Leahy, of Ireland B, in pursuit. Report, page 30

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Ps
England	1	1	0	0	25	16	2
Wales	1	1	0	0	16	15	2
Ireland	1	0	0	1	15	15	2
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

RESULTS: Ireland 15, Wales 16; Scotland 7, England 25; FIXTURES: Today: England v Ireland; Wales v France, Feb 15; France v England; Ireland v Scotland, Mar 7; England v Wales; Scotland v France, Mar 22; France v Ireland; Wales v Scotland.

in the side — which has made them the team to beat in the championship — that they can do so while still fine tuning the parts of their game that failed to function against the Scots at Murrayfield a fortnight ago.

"The beauty of Irish rugby is that there is no rigid pattern to it," Dick Best, the England coach, said. "They kick the ball, they run it, they tackle, they play close to the gain line. They're unpredictable. They're a terribly difficult team to work out."

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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1992

Le vin, le pain and la vie en rose

Robin Young
explores Paris, one
of the destinations
The Times invites
two to visit for the
price of one

With the world as your oyster, where would you place the pearl? The French news magazine *Le Point* recently conducted a poll to discover its readers' favourite cities. Stockholm came top, Paris eighth. London trailed in 28th.

If time had been no object, my wife would have seized on the chance to reintroduce me to the land of her birth, XXXX and Crocodile Dundee. With even a week at our disposal she would have undertaken to show me all the archaeological and ornithological wonders of Israel. But we only had a weekend, so naturally we went to Paris.

Immediately accessible, ever seductive, Paris has a wan and limpid charm in winter. You see the streets as Pissarro and Sisley painted them, washed, cold and misty. For the most part it is Parisians, not tourists, who people the boulevards and parks.

We chose the Hôtel Lutetia as our base because it is the grand palace of the Left Bank — comfortable for the middle-aged, yet geographically intermingled with the memories of youth.

One object to fulfil with a bargain break like this is to revisit old haunts. Another is to make new discoveries. In Paris we could do both.

We ate at the rebuilt La Coupole, the "sidewalk academy" of Montparnasse. Its regulars, outraged when a modern office block was raised above it, are all reconciled to the changes now and have returned. Lunch was worth waiting for among the newly painted pillars of the convivial canteen, as long-sproned waiters swept past with trays held aloft.

Then into the winding streets of Montmartre, past the Moulin de la Galette (Renoir's archetypal French dance floor is now an Italian restaurant) and the Lapin Agile (the cottage-cabaret famous from Utrillo's paintings, birthplace of cubism, still offers "Poèmes et Chansons" in the small hours of the morning), to Paris's own little hillside vineyard.

They have repaved and replanted the Place du Tertre, temporarily displacing the portrait painters and silhouette cutters who swarm in the side streets waiting to reclaim their traditional workplace. A Peruvian band performed on the steps of Sacré-Cœur and in the café, artists parked their sketch-pads by the door while they took time out for coffee.

Even a short walk from our hotel underlined the vital difference of Paris. Parisians queue for bread not, as in Moscow, because it is in short supply, nor, as in London, because shop staff are slow and surly. At Poilâne, 8 rue du Commerce-Midi, just behind the Hôtel Lutetia, people from all over Paris stand in line down the street simply because the bread baked there is so delicious. At 37 rue d'Assas, Christian Constant's sorbets and biscuits are a lesson in legerdemain, the chocolate and banana tart a masterpiece acknowledged by artists (including Sonia Rykiel, who gave the Lutetia its present art deco decor).

At Au Bell Viandier, the tiny butchers' shop at 25 rue du Vieux-Colombier, I watched housewives choosing meat and poultry from a choice that put vast supermarkets to shame. In France food is prepared by experts and sold to customers who can tell good from bad. Tourists can share the benefit: choose your café or restaurant by the number of locals frequenting it, and you will not go wrong.

Or that principle I chose to eat at Le Vieil Écu, a small restaurant close to the Louvre which, as far as I can see, does not get into any guidebook. Quite possibly the soup of the day is always the same vegetable blend, but it was authentically correct, as was the choucroute maison. With coffee and a half-bottle of lightly chilled



Fun de siècle: *Outside the Theatre du Vaudeville*, by Jean Beraud (1849-1936), captures the elegant atmosphere of Parisian life a century ago — an atmosphere that still flourishes in the city of light

beaujolais, a three-course meal came to £12.90, including service, in what might have been taken for a tourist trap. The restaurant claims, you see, to be part of the former home of Charles de Batz, Count of Aragnan, and even suggests on its table-covers that it was on the strength of a meal in this dining-room that Alexandre Dumas chose to team D'Artagnan with *The Three Musketeers*.

You get a better class of busker in Paris. In one of our Métro carriages a gypsy girl sang with the husky intensity of Juliette Greco. At stations we also had Pachelbel's Canon at Étoile, a Beethoven violin sonata at Concorde, and a 13-piece chamber orchestra playing Mozart in the corridors of Châtelet.

For those who prefer an artistic sprint to such a cultural marathon, the Louvre individually signs off its biggest attractions — the *Mona Lisa*, *Venus de Milo* and Michelangelo's *Slaves*. Da Vinci's puzzling little painting of the woman with the quizzical smile is about to be displaced while work continues on the restoration of Veronese's *Wedding at Cana*, but I calculate that at present the hurrying visitor who did not lose his way could see all three, and the *Winged Victory of Samothrace*, within a quarter of an hour.

Thus encouraged, I set out to look for art appreciation, with a day-long assault course touring the Louvre station, the declaration of the rights of man spelt out at Concorde, exhibitions mounted in display cases at several other stops, and a bold new yellow and green colour scheme at Assemblée Nationale (formerly Chambre des Députés), a Métro ride becomes quite an artistic experience.

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Going to work on an egg

REVIEW

A faraway twang of collapsed fantasy is all part of a reviewer's week.
Lynne Truss writes

The desert, of course, can play funny tricks on the mind. Two weeks ago I was sitting in a motel cabin in Arizona, listening to the moan and whistle of a cold, dry desert wind... and I saw, or thought I saw, one of the most alarming bits of cheap studio-audience TV of my entire life. I blinked my bloodshot eyes; my ears crackled: it seemed to be real. When it was over, I crawled to the sei and turned it off. It will be a long time before I venture into a great, empty Ansel Adams landscape again, if this is the sort of thing that happens.

It was a morning show in which four American mothers presented their teenage daughters to the viewing public. One of the daughters was named Sky, which added to the unreality. The subject of the show was obnoxious teenage behaviour, as evidenced by these girls' exaggerated gum-chewing, loud-mouthed interruptions, and irrational refusal to wear anything fashioned from spotted chiffon (or purchased by Mom).

"Sky spits on the sidewalk," said Sky's mother. "I do not," shouted Sky. "I spit on the grass." "You spit on the sidewalk?" "I spit on the grass!" "She spits on the sidewalk." "I don't."

Anyway, she certainly spits somewhere, because she did it in the studio. This did not win sympathy from the audience, who hissed their disapproval, like a festive lynch-mob. In the prayer-meeting tradition of such programmes, members of the audience would stand and bear witness with such enlightened comments as "If I were your mother, I would buy you a muzzle."

But then, out of nowhere, sprang a red-suited "etiquette consultant", who took the four girls backstage. What would she do to them? Would they reappear wearing choke-chains? Would the etiquette consultant tame them with a whip and chair?

No, it was worse than that. When the four girls re-emerged they were wearing off-the-shoulder party frocks, thick make-up and dainty pumps. Their hair had been crimped and pearly earrings affixed to the sides of their heads. As for their chewing gum - well, it had been either confiscated or tucked inside their evening gloves for safe-keeping. One by one, they mimed on to the stage amid gasps of wonder.

"Do you like it?" each was asked. "Gee, I do," said three (including Sky), quietly and without spitting. "How did I do?" asked the



Two-way stretch: a tight budget thwarted Brian Cox's attempt to create visual doubles of Patricia Hodge in *The Cloning of Joanna May*

etiquette consultant, brightly. "I could see that they just wanted to be different. So I told them, this is different." And as she said the words, it was suddenly horribly clear that the four, sweet little Barbie dolls looked virtually identical. The audience went wild.

I mention all this partly because I needed to get it off my chest, and partly because last Sunday saw the first part of Fay Weldon's *The Cloning of Joanna May* (ITV, Sunday), a nasty brash tale that describes a similarly cynical manufacture of non-individual beauty.

In Weldon's story, a flint-hearted power-mad nuclear scientist (Brian Cox) applies the principle of atomic fission to human genetics and produces clones of his beautiful ex-wife (Patricia Hodge) after robbing her ovaries. He goes to work on an egg, as you might say. Any faint quibbles about the available technology he breezily sweeps aside by declaring that money can buy anything. It is a tribute to the atmosphere of the piece that, for a moment, you actually believe him.

But then the "clones" come along and the fantasy collapses. The suspension of disbelief snaps audibly, with a melancholy, faraway twang (like the famous sound-effect in *The Cherry Orchard*). Alas, the money available to director Philip Saville did not stretch to the cloning of Patricia Hodge. Thus, Joanna May's clones - being played by actresses

with faces all their own - look nothing like her. It is hard to know how to approach the second episode, armed with this knowledge. *The Rather Hopeless Approximation of Joanna May* somehow lacks the pulling power.

Nevertheless, the point was made: what better revenge on anybody than to rob them of their individuality (literally, of their undividedness)? What more scary notion than the manufacture of people, so that they're all made out of ticky-tacky and they all look just the same? The megalomania in love with a unique beauty, but he must own it - so he destroys its singularity.

"She likes white lino."

"Well, that's better than liking chintz frou-frou."

"Good grief, now she's put The Hay Wain up again!"

"Honestly, she's no clone of mine."

Signs of the Times is pure television: it's clear, calm presentation of people talking with immense pride about their homes - seemingly attaching every scrap of their self-worth to their choice of Dulux - has in a short time become essential viewing. Leaving aside how witty the series has been filmed and edited (producer Nicholas Barker), the appeal is that it is beautifully open-ended. Viewers must conclude for themselves that taste is a phenomenon that is literally no accounting for.

A couple are shown engaged in slow-motion bickering. The issue is a mug-tree (one of those wooden things you hang mugs from). The man, you see, was in love with a red mug-tree, but his girlfriend silently substituted a more tasteful replica in natural pine. The camera shows us both mug-trees, which assume an air of innocence. Yet to the bickering couple the day of the mug-tree has become equivalent to the gunshot at Sarajevo. The red looked naff in a coffee-and-cream kitchen, avers the woman. But the pine-look is too anonymous, argues the man.

In such a context, good taste becomes a purely relative concept.

The real issue, to my mind, is the sad inadequacy of interior design as a means of expressing the essential you. People keep saying,

"I think this room is really me," and of course it is not. It is a page from *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, or a setting from the Habitat catalogue.

Happening to pass John Lewis's window after watching *Signs of the Times*, I found that innocuous home furnishings leapt to the eye with a bizarre new quality. Here were nice chintz fabrics, plant stands, framed mirrors - each item cunningly designed to appeal to a purchaser's sense of personal taste, yet clearly manufactured to suit a lowest common denominator. It's the etiquette consultant all over again: it's the clone trap. You want to be different? Well, this is different. And we're all made out of ticky-tacky and we all look just the same.

Off with all their heads

Screen Two: The Count of Solar

(Tomorrow, BBC2, 10.10pm)

David Nokes, co-adapter of last year's *Clarissa*, wrote the screenplay for this remarkable story of pre-revolutionary France, in which *The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser* meets *The Return of Martin Guerre*. A young deaf-mute boy is found wandering the countryside; he is educated in sign language by the Abbé de l'Epée (played by David Calder), and then starts to claim he is an aristocrat - viz, the Count of Solar. Given that the tumbrils impatiently await anyone with a fancy title, there is a certain historical irony here. Anyway, a trial ensues, with intrigue. The director is Tristram Powell, who years ago directed Nokes's film about Jonathan Swift, *No Country for Old Men*.

By Elizabeth R

(Thursday, BBC1, 8pm)

Forty years without a break, that's what they keep saying. But what does this mean: "without a break"? How can anyone take a breather from being Queen? Anyway, Edward Mirzoeff, veteran *Forty Minutes* editor, filmed the Queen over the period of her forty years, getting behind the scenes of lots of head-of-state engagements, and showing the desk-bound monarch sorting through the famous red boxes. The style of the resultant film, we are told, is intimate and relaxed; and we are assured that the palace has not exercised undue control over the material. So good luck to it, then. In the book that accompanies the film, however, there is a photo of the Queen choosing carpets and curtains for Holyroodhouse, each of the swatches being a subtly different shade of crimson. Surely a striking image for the range of editorial nuance available to a royal documentary maker?

By Elizabeth R

(Thursday, Channel 4, 12.05am)

A repeat showing of Ann Lalić's enjoyable 80-minute film about *Alaska Men* - a magazine and video-dating service dedicated to rectifying the chronic woman shortage in the USA's northern-most state. Of course, *Alaska Men* gushes with crude success - because there is a corresponding dearth of "men" everywhere else. Is this God's way of telling us He has a sense of humour? Anyway, the adverts ("Hi, I'm Dan and I look like a lumberjack") can elicit as many as 2,000 responses from American women searching for protective, sensitive males in peaked caps.

L.T.

GUILTY SECRETS: LORD DENNING



Lord Denning: "I always watch the news on television and I don't watch very much else. I don't like Moira Stuart because I can't understand what she says, her accent is not quite good enough. I can't hear her properly. I like the nice looking one, Martyn Lewis. I like David Dimbleby when he's on. I think he's first class. Apart from that, oddly enough, at tea time we always put on children's television. We think the BBC do jolly well."

"One of the problems when you get older is that everything works slowly and it becomes harder to absorb things," Lady Denning explains. "Newsround puts the news in a simple way and cuts out the horrors. It goes at the right sort of pace for us."

The novelist that time forgot

Next Wednesday *Bookmark* on BBC2 profiles Henry Green, best-selling author and recluse

Henry Green was born in 1904. Henry Green in 1905. Like his near-namesake, the latter was a novelist who flirted with nihilism and enjoyed ricocheting between high life and low life. He, too, shied away from publicity and so acquired a certain mystique as an "enigma". In the 1940s and 1950s the reputation of the author of *Loving* (Green) was on par with that of the author of *The Heart of the Matter* (Greene).

Graham Greene - who wisely dropped his first name - went on to win worldwide fame. Through his involvement in the cinema, his work fed into popular culture. Other writers, notably John le Carré, acquired time-shares in Greeneland, reworking his characteristic ambience for their own fiction. The novels and story collections are on sale in W. H. Smith, on the same shelf as Frederick Forsyth and Jack Higgins.

Green's books, on the other hand, are mostly out of print. His pious narratives do not lend themselves to adaptation for the big or small screen and he has no literary heirs. Despite any number of admiring testimonials from fellow authors - Evelyn Waugh to John Updike - he is now virtually forgotten.

Wednesday's *Bookmark* documentary, *Trapped* (BBC2, 8.10pm), asks how we could have forgotten him so rapidly and explores the novelist's decline from the debonair figure of wartime to the unkempt recluse of later years - who published no further fiction between 1952 and his death in 1973.

Roger Thompson, the director, avoids interviewing critics or the



Rarity: Henry Green captured by photographer Cecil Beaton

The Channel 4 show received a critical hammering last year, partly as a result of its gimmick (condemned by Bernard Levin in *The Times* of incinerating books disliked by reviewers).

Stuart Cosgrove, the producer, insists the burnings were simulated ("the most we did was to singe the jacket of a biography of Dave Allen") and that the second series will see improvements.

"Last time was really just a trial run," he says. "We've now got more status, as an evening programme, and more money. So we've re-jigged it quite substantially."

TV programmes about books (and author profiles in general arts series) have two puzzling features. The first, ironically, is that literary appreciation or analysis actually makes authors rather bored and fatigued.

Bookmark's only rival at present is Channel 4's *Burning Books*, a topical magazine in which guest reviewers sit around four tables in a torch-lit studio set. It starts a second series tomorrow (9.30-10pm) with a new look described as "less medieval and conspiratorial, more viewer-friendly". A collection of paparazzi photos and Fiona Pitt-Kieley's *Literary Companion To Sex* are among the items on the agenda.

Up and under the mike

This is the time of the year when sprightly, young things start to dominate our television screens. Svelte types who are experts in anything that involves him, kicking it, picking it up or picking it up and running with it. Dan Maskell and Bill MacLaren are two of the best known examples, but Maskell has only just been seeded for the 1992 season and we won't see him sprouting until about May; full bloom can be expected the following month in the Wimbledon area.

Meanwhile Maskell is rehearsing for a new BBC sitcom called *Eighty* as the spotlight falls this weekend on the up-and-coming prince of the up-and-under game. MacLaren, a striping of 72 the last time I looked, commutes on the England versus Ireland game in the Five Nations Championship this afternoon, thus becoming the middle man in the one about the Englishman, the Scotsman and the Irishman.

MacLaren-speak involves more Rs than a Japanese pronouncing lily of the valley so he has become a perfect target for every impressionist under the sun. Which cannot hide the fact that the retired Scottish schoolmaster is probably the best commentator working in television, a man who manages to balance excitement and information without sounding like Murray Walker on acid. No wonder the BBC got in a tizz

when MacLaren was seen lunching with ITV executives after the commercial channel, horror of horrors, secured last year's rugby World Cup. The BBC is the traditional home of both rugby and MacLaren so it was trebles all round when the grizzled mon agreed to do the World Cup for radio in exchange for a tasty contract this year.

If this is a big year for BBC rugby coverage it is just as big a year for rugby union itself. Soon, the players will be paid. Gracious, no, not paid to play rugby and not paid to talk about rugby, but paid for anything they do in their capacity as rugby players which is not directly connected with rugby. On go, it makes perfect sense.

What the revolution actually means is that the Bridlington Rotary Club is looking for someone to speak on the Ruturian potato famine of 1923, they will naturally send for Rob Andrew or Will Carling. If you can imagine John Major giving up his prime ministerial salary and instead being paid to watch cricket you have got the general idea.

One can see the financial need.

PETER BARNARD

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Virtuosity that thrives on the spur of the moment

When music companies issue recordings from the past, they often do so in a spirit of cheapshot nostalgia. But a recent and striking exception to the back catalogue cash-in syndrome has been the release of *Infrared Roses*. This collection of 12 improvisations, all of them unrehearsed, was drawn from concerts given by one of rock's oldest and boldest fixtures, the Grateful Dead.

To Dead-heads — the army of devoted fans that follows the band from city to city — this section of the show, when the song structures are abandoned and music is created on the spot, is central to their appreciation. During *On The Edge*, a four-part Channel 4 television series which begins tomorrow, Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia explains why the improvisational element of the music is so important, both to the fans and the band.

"What we're doing here," says Garcia, relaxing in his Marin County home in California, "is inventing this as we go along. You are involved in this experience and it's never going to be this way again. There's value to that and I think our audience is the proof of it. There are people who come back to every performance. If we do ten days somewhere, a lot of them will be back every night."

According to *Forbes Magazine*, the Grateful Dead earned \$33 million for their performances between 1989 and 1991. This prodigious feat elevated them to number 20 among the world's top earning entertainers. Such a high level of popular recognition is almost unheard of among musicians who feature improvisation so prominently.

Improvisation lies at the heart of so much of the world's music. Yet we still regard it with suspicion, often treating it as a poor relation of composing and down-playing its significance. *On The Edge* scrutinises our mistrust, opening up the nuts and bolts of improvisation as it is practised, or avoided, in a wide variety of musical forms. Directed by Jeremy Marre, a film-maker whose music documentaries are consistently challenging and entertaining, the series was inspired originally by a book written in 1980 by guitarist Derek Bailey.

Improvisation has now been revised for a second edition, to coincide with the series. As a guitarist, Bailey has devoted himself to pure improvisation since the late 1960s. Originally a commercial player, who accompanied anybody from Bob Monkhouse to the Supremes, he has rigorously avoided any connection with his past.

Is improvisation, considered an essential skill in Mozart's day, excluded from our play-safe musical world? David Toop goes in search of spontaneous combustions



Spontaneity brings rewards: Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead

life in dance halls, pit orchestras and cabaret clubs.

He points out, "I make as much money playing the plink-plonk stuff as I used to with the other stuff. If I'd carried on being a commercial musician, I would have been redundant. There would be some little piece of equipment doing what I was doing."

In the age of machines, compact discs, nostalgia and record company pressures for odds-on winners, improvisation has become a dirty word. One of the more out-spoken musicians featured in *On The Edge* is the classical pianist Robert Levin, filmed with the Academy of Ancient Music, which plays on 18th-century instruments or exact copies of them. Levin laments the eradication of improvisation from performances of music by composers such as Mozart, who

actually invited and encouraged the practice.

Music industry demands for standardisation are certainly to blame, he maintains, since the studio performances can be spliced together from a number of "takes". Improvisation may lead a musician into flights of fancy which cannot be matched for the final, supposedly perfect version.

"You might get so carried away by what you are doing," said Levin, "that you might play a few wrong notes. Our society has lionised predictable performance in just the same way that it has lionised a certain standard in show polish or toothpaste. We want things that are reliable."

Relegated to the "stack 'em high" economics of toothpaste selling, music seems a frail and useless thing. The more unpredictable it becomes,

the more useless it can seem. Yet improvisation thrives. On *The Edge* leapfrogs across Indian vocal music, country music session players in Nashville, Spanish flamenco dancing, Gaelic psalms in the Hebrides, and spirit ceremonies in Zimbabwe. Jazz drummer Max Roach, who played bebop alongside Charlie Parker in the 1940s, hosts a percussion workshop with children in Harlem. New York saxophonist John Zorn conducts a frenetic, psychologically revealing improvisation game called "Cobra"; the organist of the Sacré-Coeur in Paris, Naji Hakim, explains the spiritual significance of improvisation, while Chicago blues guitarist, Buddy Guy, reveals the flexible relationship between his intense playing and the infinite variety of audience reactions he encounters in clubs and concert halls around the world.

Musical sounds, cultural differences and performance styles could hardly be greater, yet all of these musicians speak a common language. Improvisation is the life blood of their art, they agree. The rules, whether blues chord changes or Indian ragas, are an empty matrix without the creative or subversive inventions of improvisation.

Few people enjoy surprises, despite the world being full of them. Even worse, from the point of view of improvisers, is the fact that their best work is often transient. As the great jazz saxophonist and flautist, Eric Dolphy, once said, shortly before his death: "When you hear music, it's over and gone in the air. You can never capture it again."

For the music business, live performance frequently becomes merely a means of promoting recordings. Levin regards this attitude as a pernicious influence on our listening habits. When compact discs present us with the illusion of perfection, what happens when we hear inspired but imperfect performances?

Equally, we might turn the entire anti-improvisation syndrome on its head. "It's really a pity that I have a CD player at home," Levin imagines people saying to themselves. "I have to listen to the same silly thing all the time and not have the sense that I experienced a performance belonging only to me, to be treasured forever, or be exchanged for another which I treasure even more, but which is as fragile as this music ought to be."

• *On The Edge* will be transmitted by Channel 4 in four parts on Sundays at 8.30, beginning tomorrow



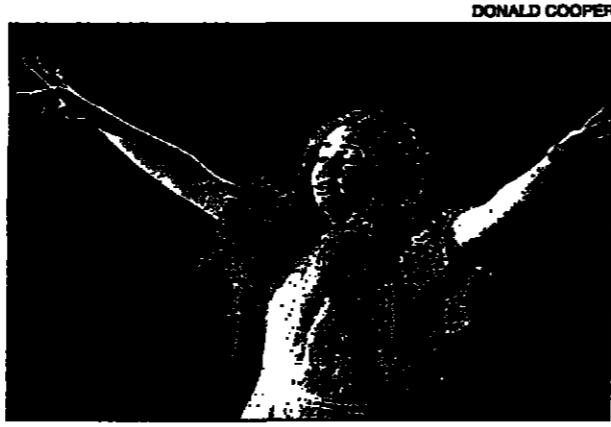
Improvisation as a frenetic and revealing game: New York saxophonist John Zorn

Tragic sense of emptiness

OPERA

Königskinder

Coliseum



DONALD COOPER
Cathryn Pope as the Goosegir: altogether a fairy being

every turn a harmonic progression, or a melodic shape, or an instrumental effect tells them that they do not exist, that they are vapours left on the stage after *Siegfried*, *Tristan* and *Die Meistersinger*.

Königskinder is not something to be dismissed, therefore, as Humperdinck's "other" opera. The orchestral plushness is the same, as Mark Elder shows in a generally warm performance, even though there are uncomfortable problems when the string writing goes into flights of solo figuration. But this later opera does not have the firm rooting in folksong, in jaunty simple hums and whistles, that makes *Hansel and Gretel* such an unexpected and special achievement. It is altogether more airy, and perhaps indeed one would have to say more airy-fairy.

One of the essays in the programme book suggests that the author of the original play, Elsa Bernstein, has been

neglected on grounds of sex. But this seems unlikely. Her work falls into a tradition of fairy plays, along with those of Maeterlinck and Hauptmann for instance, that have all plummeted, except where they have been borne up by an exceptional score, as of course is the case with the Maeterlinck-Debussy *Pelléas et Mélisande*. That work, not *Hansel*, provides the pattern for understanding and judging *Königskinder*, as one would surely realise even without Cathryn Pope providing an evident link in making the Goosegir as nervily icy, beautiful, magical and vul-

nerable as her Mélisande of little more than a year ago. And by comparison with Debussy's opera, this piece almost fades away.

It does, however, provide opportunities for a great deal of visual charm in the outer acts (with extended intervals for scene changes, this is a long evening), and for a number of effective character sketches. Sue Blane's set for the first act is an inviting box of wild wood, mostly in natural shades of ochre and green, but adapting to some enthralling changes in Paul Pyant's lighting. Then the final snowscape suggests a

giant dust sheet, a potent image of emptiness, with the monochrome for the juvenile Liebestod broken only by the cascading flame of the Goosegir's Rossetti hair.

Pope's singing combines

the ice and the flame of her look and demeanour: she is altogether a fairy being, a stranger, with her voice adding to the impression of weightlessness she conveys by the way she moves. Opposite her as the Prince, Joseph Evans is someone with his feet far more decisively planted, as is appropriate to the part. There is nothing fancy about his singing, but it comes with an appealing freshness and strength, and it keeps coming, for he has a lot to do. Not so Sally Burgess as the Witch, which is a pity when she is so devilish cunning and seductive. There are fine cameos too from Alan Opie, Richard Angas and Eric Shilling.

However, the lederhosen vulgarity of the middle act and the unwarranted final gesture suggest that David Pountney as director does not quite know whether to believe in the piece, or how to couch his disbelief.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

THE SUNDAY TIMES

• Blyton's ultra-middle-class, ultra-middle-brow stories are designed to do to young readers exactly what she did to her own children: to keep them imprisoned in a world of falsely childish realities, away from the social and psychological realities that may threaten or question the dubious parental mores... *Humphrey Carpenter on Enid Blyton, in The Sunday Times tomorrow*

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JAZZ RECORDS

Miriam Makeba: Africa (RCA/Novus ND83155)

was unfair, and it certainly cannot be applied to this compilation. While they may be gentle, Makeba's rich vocal harmonies are never in danger of lapsing into easy listening. *Africa* shows her at the peak of her form. It is worth hearing in conjunction with last year's *Drum: South African Jazz and Jive*, an assortment of 'Fifties performers — including Makeba.

Makeba's former husband, Hugh Masekela, collaborates on many of the arrangements. The starker settings are the more evocative. Politics and the rituals of ordinary life are mingled in the chants of songs such as "Khwuluza". It is heartening that the anti-Verwoerd song "Ndodemnyama" can now be thought of as a relic.

Makeba finally returned to the limelight as a guest artist on Paul Simon's *Graceland* tour. In the intervening years she had sometimes been accused of veering towards commercialism. The charge

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Chinese monkey business



If you live in or near a city with a sizeable Chinese community, this is the week to make a shopping trip to experience the thrill and bustle of the preparations, particularly the culinary ones, for Chinese new year, which is next Wednesday.

This is my favourite time of year to be in Hong Kong, shopping with my sister-in-law in Wanchai's street markets. We buy Chinese wind-dried sausages, called *ap cheung*, from the shop that sells all manner of dried foods, barbecued pork and spare ribs. The sausages and barbecued pork will be added to the fried rice, which will form part of the evening meal. The spare ribs will be cooked in a homely "hairy cucumbers" stew.

For fish, it is difficult to choose between the pearly, mottled squid and the groupers swimming in a tank. We choose a grouper steamed with ginger, garlic and spring onions for flavouring. It will be the highlight of a true Cantonese meal.

We will have vegetables, too, perhaps stir-fried broccoli, or the Chinese leaves and mangeout dish described below. I shall probably want to include the shrimp-stuffed mushrooms, which I learnt to make with Chan Fat Chee, the chef at the Fung Lum in Shatin. He is an excellent teacher.

I was fascinated to watch how he used his fist as a piping bag, taking a handful of the shrimp paste and squirting it neatly into the mushroom caps, first adding that all-important dab of cornflour to hold mushroom and filling together.

After our food shopping, we might buy some auspicious flowers or even a small orange tree for the balcony. Perhaps some red and gold new year decorations and the traditional *lai see* or red packets in which to tuck a crisp new banknote or two for the children.

The pungent smell of dried fish mingles with those of barbecued meats; the smell of fresh oranges is tempered by a compound spiciness coming from the herbal medicine shop. What an appetite it induces. Is it to be dim sum and tea at one of the large bustling restaurants in Hong Kong Central, or is it to be the quiet haven of one of the fine hotel restaurants?

You do not need to travel to Hong Kong to appreciate all these good things. Oriental food shops are to be found in many of our large cities.



Welcome the year of the monkey with The Times cook, Frances Bissell, in Cantonese mood

London's Soho will yield all you need for a Year of the Monkey banquet. Any number of restaurants in Gerrard Street and Shaftesbury Avenue will provide authentic tea and dim sum. The Mayflower, whose owner Patrick Tsang is from Shatin, turns out truly authentic Cantonese dishes, such as fried milk. The scallops in deep-fried taro crust are as good as any I have had anywhere. To experience the calm of a fine oriental dining-room, try the restaurant at The Dorchester, which serves shark fin, abalone and roast pig.

Some of the following recipes I have learnt from Chinese cooks and chefs, some are simply based on the ingredients I like to use in my kitchen. The Eight Treasure cake recipe, for example, is based on the English fruit cake, but uses dried tropical fruit, which you can buy in health food stores. It is extraordinarily good. The number eight is very lucky in Chinese numerology.

My recipe below is a crisp, cooling combination. Melon partners cold, cooked meats very well. Arrange a bed of salad leaves on the plates first, if you wish.

Chicken and melon salad with warm sesame dressing (serves 6)

3x5oz/140g skinless, boneless chicken breasts
1 small honeydew melon
2tbsp sesame seeds
3tbsp sunflower oil
1tbsp rice vinegar
2tsp shredded ginger
2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
2tsp toasted sesame oil

Poach or steam the chicken for eight minutes. When cool enough to handle, slice and arrange the slices on plates, alternating with slices of melon, or put a fan of chicken slices to one side of the

plate and a fan of melon slices on the other. In a small heavy frying pan, toast the sesame seeds until golden brown. Scatter them over the chicken and melon. In the same pan, mix all the ingredients except the sesame oil, bring to the boil, remove from the heat, stir in the sesame oil and spoon over the salad. Serve immediately.

FOR the following recipe, you can change the flavourings if you wish, adding coriander leaves, star anise or dried tangerine peel. A small cod, hake, grise (small salmon) or trout in season, sea bass, grey mullet or grouper can be cooked in this way.

Steamed fish

(serves 6)

2½-3lb/1.10-1.35kg round fish, gutted but with whole head intact
1 bunch spring onions or baby leeks
2in/5cm piece fresh ginger
2-3 cloves of garlic
3tbsp soy sauce
2tbsp good dry sherry or rice wine
1tbsp toasted sesame oil

Rinse and dry the fish thoroughly. Wash the spring onions or baby leeks, cut off the roots and remove the tops and outer skin if necessary. Split them lengthways and lay half of them on an oval plate or dish large enough to take the fish and of a size to fit your steamer. Peel and thinly slice the ginger and garlic. Lay a few slices on top of the spring onions and a few slices in the fish. Put the fish in the dish and sprinkle the remaining ginger and garlic on top. Cover with more spring onions. Pour over a tablespoon of soy sauce and place in a steamer. Steam for 8-12 minutes. Boil up the rest of the soy sauce and the sherry. Remove the fish from the steamer, uncover it, put the spring onions around. Pour the hot soy mixture over the fish and sprinkle on the sesame oil. Serve immediately.

THE mixture for the following recipe can also be used to stuff parboiled courgettes or small hollowed-out potatoes, which have been cooked until just tender. A mixture of *shittake*, oyster and ordinary cap mushrooms would be delicious if you cannot get dried flower mushrooms. If you do use these, add the mixture to the hollowed-out mushroom cap and smooth it over with a finger or thumb dipped into the egg white. Place in a steamer basket, and steam for eight minutes. Remove and garnish before serving.

USE courgettes or ordinary cucumbers in the following recipe as a substitute for hairy cucumber, or fuzzy melon as it is also called. Cooked cucumbers are very good, provided they are not overdone.

Shrimp-stuffed mushrooms

(serves 4-6 as a starter)

18 mushrooms, about 1½in/4cm in diameter
2tsp cornflour
1lb/455g raw prawns shelled
1 egg white
large pinch salt, small pinch pepper
finely grated ginger and chopped chive or spring onion for garnish

Remove the stalks from the mushrooms and wipe them clean. Avoid washing them if possible. Sprinkle cornflour lightly over the inside of each mushroom cap. Put the shelled prawns, most of the egg white, the remaining cornflour, the salt and pepper in a food processor and process until you have a smooth paste.

Spoon the filling into each mushroom cap and smooth it over with a finger or thumb dipped into the egg white. Place in a steamer basket, and steam for eight minutes. Remove and garnish before serving.

USE courgettes or ordinary cucumbers in the following recipe as a substitute for hairy cucumber, or fuzzy melon as it is also called. Cooked cucumbers are very good, provided they are not overdone.

Cucumber and spare ribs

(serves 4)

8 dried Chinese mushrooms or 12 fresh *shittake* mushrooms
6 medium-sized courgettes or 2 large cucumbers
1lb/455g pork spare rib chops
1tbsp groundnut oil
sea salt, black pepper

Soak the dried mushrooms in 5fl oz/140ml water for half an hour. If using the fresh mushrooms, poach them for five minutes in the same quantity of water. Drain and reserve the liquid. Slice the mushrooms. Peel the cucumber (scraps hairy cucumbers) or courgettes and cut into wedges. Dice the pork quite small. Heat the oil in a wok or large frying pan and fry the pork until browned all over. Then add the vegetables. Cook for a couple of minutes and add half the mushroom liquid. Cook for a further minute or two, season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper and serve immediately.

Steamed Chinese leaves and mangosteens

(serves 4)

1 head of Chinese leaves
3oz/85g mangosteens
2 star anise

Dressing

(serves 4)

2tbsp each toasted sesame oil, soy sauce, brown sugar and rice vinegar

Remove any damaged outer leaves from the Chinese leaves. Top and tail the mangosteens. Shred the leaves across, mix them with the mangosteens and place them in a steamer basket with the star anise buried in the middle. Steam for five-eight minutes. Mix together the ingredients for the dressing, pour it into a serving bowl and toss the hot drained vegetables in it.

Eight treasures fruit cake

(fills 16in/25.5cm round or 9in/23cm square tin. Also fills two 1lb/approx 500g loaf tins and two 4lb/approx 250g soufflé dishes)

12oz/340g unsalted butter, softened

12oz/340g light or dark muscovado sugar

14oz/400g plain flour

4 range eggs

grated rind and juice of ½ lemon

1tsp lemon oil (optional)

1tsp ground cinnamon

1tsp ground mixed spice

4tsp Chinese five-spice powder

4tsp ground cardamom

4tsp ground nutmeg

3lb/1.35kg dried fruit and nuts, using

8 from the following: sultanas, seedless raisins, pitted prunes, apricots,

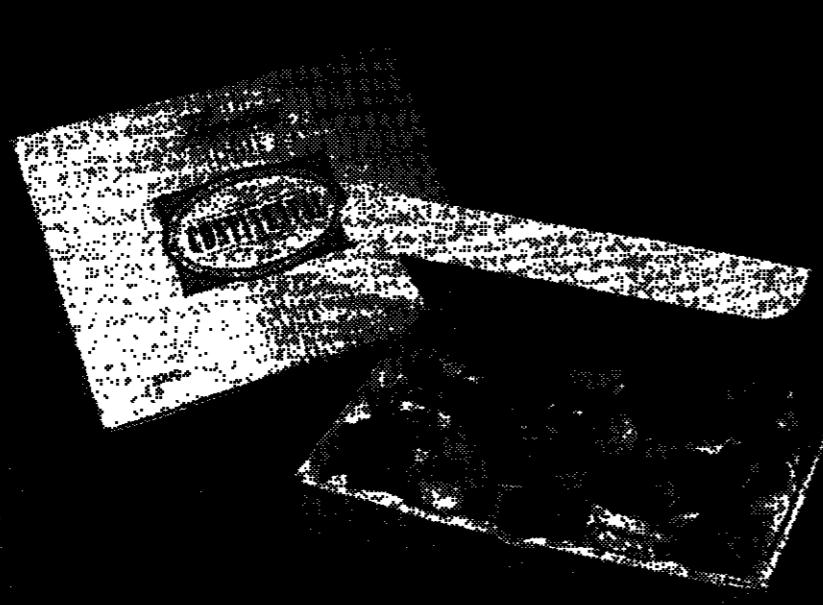
cherries, cranberries, crystallized ginger, pecans, walnuts, almonds, papaya, mango, citrus peel, sweet preserved kumquats, limes or mandarins, bananas

1tsp/70ml amaretto sherry or shaoxing wine

Cream together the butter and sugar and, when soft and light, beat in the flour and eggs alternately. Stir in the rest of the ingredients. Spoon into ready-prepared cake tins lined with buttered greaseproof paper. Bake at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 in the middle of a preheated oven. The smaller cakes will bake in about 75 minutes. If baking a large cake, it will take 3½-4 hours. Reduce the heat to 150C/300F, gas mark 2 after two hours and cover with brown paper or foil to prevent the top from burning.

● Oriental suppliers — Birmingham: Wing Yip, 96-98 Coventry Street, BS5 5NY (021-643 8987); Hull: Exotic Speciality Food, 20 Berkeley Street, HU3 1PR (0482 25236); also mail order. London: Wing Yip, 395 Edgware Road, Cricklewood, NW2 6LN (081-450 0423), and many shops in Soho, Manchester: Wing Yip, Oldham Road, Ancoats, M4 5HU (061-832 3215); Oxford: Lung Wah Chong, 41-42 Hyde Bridge Street (0865 790703).

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A zest for the islands

Jane MacQuitty sings the praises of New Zealand's wines, so close to European hearts

New Zealand's crisp, light, aromatic white wines are as close as the new world is likely to get today to a European wine style. So close that intense, flavourful Kiwi sauvignon regularly beats the finest French versions from Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé at blind tastings in Britain and abroad.

Though it irritates the Australians like fury, the cool, temperate, maritime-influenced climate of their archipelago across the Tasman produces vital, verdant wines that are far closer to their European originals.

Britain's wine-drinkers have been slow to realize the potential and suitability of New Zealand wines: in 1981 we drank only 4,000 cases a year, but by 1991 we were drinking 200,000 cases (80 per cent up on 1990).

New Zealand sauvignon, especially the flowering currant-like versions from Marlborough, the prime site on the northern tip of South Island, is the wine that has successfully wooed British drinkers. Monitors blazed the trail, and others followed: Cloudy Bay's sauvignon is the sell-out cult Marlborough bottle, here and in the Antipodes, but Hunter's, Palliser, Wairau River and Stonelake are also first-class sauvignon producers.

Sauvignon is the obvious New Zealand wine choice. But southern hemisphere chardonnay from this country displays real class and flavour too, with restrained, burgundy-like acidity and depth that escapes many of the turbo-charged Australian versions.

Anyone tasting a top-notch, rich, nutty, new oak-aged New Zealand chardonnay from Hawke's Bay, or the up and coming Martinborough region, both sited well north of Wellington on North Island, will know why. Again, it is the intense herbaceous underpinning and acidity stemming from New Zea-



land's climate that make these chardonnays so special.

For years, New Zealand's cabernet sauvignon-dominated reds lagged well behind the pace and class of the country's white wines. Cooler climate reds can be pale and lacklustre. New Zealand has taken time to realise that the best cabernet sauvignons of the world are those that follow Bordeaux's example and have been filled out by the merlot and cabernet franc

grapes. Increased New Zealand vineyard plantings of these two varieties will further encourage this trend.

Already the Bordeaux-inspired blends, particularly those of Hawke's Bay fruit made by Villa Maria, Vidal, Vavasour, Corbans and Coopers Creek, show what can be achieved. Te Mata's impressive Coleraine Cabernet Merlot from North Island was one of the pioneering Marlborough blends, and at last

now has some competition.

New Zealand's surprising expertise with the notoriously difficult to grow and vinify pinot noir grape was apparent back in 1983. Early excellent pinot noirs, made by Nobilo and St Helena, near Canterbury in the south of South Island, have been followed up particularly by the Martinborough Vineyard, whose winery near Wellington has produced consistently good examples.

In contrast to Europe's poor showing in 1991, everything seems to have gone right for the New Zealanders with their grape harvest, despite its late arrival. A cool spring reduced yields, but a long, hot autumn and a long growing season produced wines with unusual ripeness and maturity.

With so many 1991 European wine regions wiped out by severe spring frost, especially those of France, New Zealand's superb Pinot Noirs have a tremendous opportunity here. Yet many New Zealand producers ignore the one UK wine category that will bring them fame and fortune: the £2.99 bottle. A dry, zesty, well-made Müller-Thurgau-based blend at £2.99 would bring the 600,000 case sales New Zealand so desperately desires.

BEST BUYS	
• Stewells of Chelsea Gloucester Sauvignon Blanc Tesco £13.49, Thresher Wine Rack and Victoria Wine £13.99	This delicious, zingy, 3-line wine box works out about £3.38 a bottle — New Zealand's current best value for money.
• 1991 Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc, Hunters, 93 Crown Rd, Twickenham, £8.95; Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver St West, Colchester £9.30	Wonderful stuff and so it should be at this price. Cloudy Bay's intense, rich, floral white currant-like fruit is amazing.
• 1991 Wairau River Sauvignon Blanc, Waitmas, £6.95; Reid Wines, The Mill, Marsh Lane, Halliford, nr Bristol, £6.99	Like Cloudy Bay, a Marlborough region sauvignon as ripe, juicy and packed with finely verdant fruit as anyone could wish.
• 1989 Stonelake Chardonnay Tesco £6.49, Wine Rack £6.99	This good, all-round New Zealand chardonnay has a pleasing fruit scent and balanced, fruity palate.
• 1990 Hunter's Chardonnay, £9.49; Hunters £9.80	Gorgeous combination of a smoky, oak-influenced scent leading on to a long, lingering palate. One of NZ's finest.
• 1990 Marlborough Vineyard Pinot Noir Oddbins £9.99, Lay & Wheeler £9.59	Marlborough's ripe, gamey-scented and rich plummy palate is as close as it has got to Burgundy of late. Impressive.

Jedi in 15s

Mock-heroic fantasyland



Jonathan Meades on how the old St George's Hospital has turned into a culinary dragon breathing expensive verbosity

Six weeks ago an article appeared in the *Sunday Telegraph* which may be said to have pushed back the boundaries of pretension in gastronomic writing. Its subject was the chef of The Lanesborough Hotel, his supposedly "British" menu, his sources, the nomenclature of the dishes etc. The dominant tone was that of forelock-tugging sycophancy: "After my privileged preview I see every reason for The Lanesborough to lead a long overdue return to the habit of eating in hotel restaurants."

But it was not so much the quasi-adventurous demeanour of the piece that caused me to cringe as a couple of specific epithets: "Norfolk duckling with a rago [sic] of oysters and sweetbreads. Exactly right, but brave. Accurate but astutely more courageous is Roasted Skate with lobster... Brave? Courageous? What would the gifted poet who wrote this stuff pull out of his thesaurus were he required to describe someone who had performed an act of real bravery, of genuine courage?"

One effect of coming into contact with such meretriciously devalued language is that of (quite unresistant) antipathy towards the referent. But one must try to keep an open mind. You can't blame a hotel for the quality of its apologists' prose. Well, perhaps you can: there is something so excessive about The Lanesborough that it seems almost bound to foment hyperbole. It strives for grandeur and certainly achieves grandiosity. It is formidably expensive — the cheapest room is £190. You could probably set up an entire bistro for what a couple of its Empire sofas cost (but that is no doubt an impudent measure).

The Lanesborough will, I imagine, be an object of greater curiosity to Londoners than most new hotels in this city for it occupies an indubitable landmark, the former St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner. It's a landmark by virtue of its position rather than on account of its architecture: I doubt that anyone would place it in the first division of Greek Revival buildings, though it is certainly more fully realised than the same architect's National Gallery (which the Canadian Ricardo Bofill interviewed by the trustees apropos of the extension, said he would pull down in order to start from scratch. He didn't get the job). At St George's

Hospital, Messrs Lanesborough, who are American, have taken the very opposite route. They've gone the Prince Charles way. High quality repro and lots of it. Someone has looked long and painfully at the Soane Museum. Someone else has been given an apparently open cheque. It is expected that clients will show up similarly equipped.

A problem with such full-blown replication is that its fantasy is mitigated by the very people who are paying for it, the punters. There is something irresistibly risible about a leisure-dressed resident from, say, Jeddah sitting nervously on a striped Napoleon settee awaiting his date in thigh-boots. (If nothing else The Lanesborough may be an unwitting boor to the escort trade.) Of course, the staff fit into the fantasy. There are scores of them, formally gowned, and appropriate to the surrounds: they know the rules of the charade. Maybe Brummell kit and Empire dresses should be provided for the punters.

There are two restaurants. The Conservatory is vaguely oriental — a theatrical mix of the "Hindoo" manner of, say, Sezincote with the Raffles Hotel look. Its menu is doggedly miscegenatory — the *ne plus ultra* of that idiom which flaunts the internationalism of its ingredients. Though it may be hard to believe, I don't eat in places which I'm pretty sure I'm going to dislike.

On the other hand, The Dining Room offers a menu which seems promising — you can overlook the bravery and the courage, not to mention the whimsy and the prices. It's a handsome room, plastered, pink, very opulent (loads of gold) but horribly lit — the rest of the hotel's public rooms are bright. This is crepuscular.

The staff have their rituals. One is the profix explanation of dishes which are fully described on the menu. A haddock mousse was unhappily talked up as having been "made many centuries ago in Scotland", and further qualified: "It is Mr Jeff Probyn's favourite." I imagine that Mr Jeff Probyn would thus consider it girls' food. There, too, is a lot of showy decanting, sniffing, to-ing and fro-ing with glasses — the thinking is probably that this will justify the outlandish mark-ups. A 1983 Clos de l'Arbalestier St Joseph sells for £38: it



retails for about a third of that sum.

The cooking is notionally British, apparently based in ancient recipes, reliant on spices. The actuality is that quintessential British dish, the curate's egg. Some of the stuff comes off, quite a bit of it doesn't. The presentation is unrestrictively nouvelle cuisine-ish and seems more rooted in the recent tradition of international hotels than in the lost traditions of these islands. Having said which it is difficult to think of another kitchen which would serve the said dish of duck with oysters and sweetbreads. I may be wrong but this strikes me as the sort of wayward combination of ingredients that might once have been wrought by topographical exigency beside some estuary where there were oyster beds, wild ducks and salt marsh lambs; and where poor communications

people to make the best of what was locally available.

The flesh of such ducks might be assumed to already possess a fishy taste. Not so the fat quacker cooked here: standard issue pink breast, more thoroughly cooked (and lightly spiced) leg plus the jarringly shredded oysters and bland sweetbreads. Brave? No, of course not — unless there is a subsidiary meaning that signifies pointless exhaustion. A puck-sized pigeon pie (tender if underflavoured) meat was served with swishy pickled cabbage and was OK. A "potage" of smoked oxtail was watery and the dumplings that floated in it were so tiny as to be tasteless — there is a persistent tendency towards dinkiness here: those favourites of nouvelle cuisiniers, undersized turnips, turned up with guinea fowl, and very bitter they were too. The meat,

in contrast, was bland, a potato cake soggy. Puddings have a bit more guts to them. Tea blancmange with various lumps of fruit covered in a tea-flavoured syrup was pleasantly smoky. And a bread and butter pudding along Mosimann lines was good. The courageous state was not offered the night I dined: away at its investiture, very likely.

Anyone with a mind to discover what spice cooking can be like would be better advised to take a ferry to St Malo for the weekend and to eat at Robert Abraham's eponymous restaurant. You can, of course, wander round The Lanesborough for free.

The Dining Room
1 The Lanesborough Hotel,
Hyde Park Corner, London SW1
(071-259 5599).
Lunch, dinner every day. £10 plus.

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire. Never be afraid to complain. Phone first: it is not only courteous but illegal to dishonour bookings: that goes for restaurants as well as customers.

ENGLISH COOKING

LONDON

L'Estaminet
14 Garrick Street, WC2 (071-371-1432).

The sort of French restaurant that is on the wane in France — bourgeois, comforting, devoid of pretension. The menu's conservatism is matched only by the kitchen's diligence. Simple dishes are cooked with the best ingredients and with absolute care. Warm Lyons sausage is served with potato salad, the house terrine is commendable, the salted herrings are deliciously oily, the *brochette* of pork and *petit sole* with saffron rice is great stuff. Whiting is offered as a main course and so are four cuts of first-class beef, cheese, and wine are excellent, though there are too few of the latter. Puddings include chocolate tart. Good service £50-plus. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

L'Arlequin
123 Queenstown Road, SW8
(071-622 0555).

A restaurant that has always been pretty good has transformed itself into a great one. There are red wine sauces with bass and mullet, foie gras is served in massive portions with goose ham, the lamb is probably the best you'll ever taste, the sorbet and ice-creams are unbeatable, the nougat glace is amazing. Christian Delteil's stuffed cabbage raises that humble peasant dish to undreamed-of heights — it is one of the best dishes in Britain. The wines are impressive and aren't cheap. Mme Delteil runs the front of house with real aplomb; the monochromatic mint green decor is more restful than one might expect. £90 (£40 at lunchtime). Lunch and dinner Mon-Fri.

Rules
35 Maiden Lane, WC2 (071-836 5314).

Solid trad Englishness on the plate and all around you — the pinstripes, the mandarins, the spooks, the late Victorian decorative scheme. Steak and kidney pie and savouries are recommended. £45.

OUT OF TOWN

Harpers
3-5 Ox Row, Market Square, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 333118).
Fairy simple, first-floor restaurant overlooking Salisbury's impressive market place. Good rack of lamb, mushroom tart; inventively prepared vegetables; impressive selection of French regional wines. £30. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

The Red Lion Inn
Newton, Folkingham, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire (05297 256).
Remote pub between Grantham and Boston which has been turned up with carriage lamps, horse brasses and so on. What makes it notable is the selection of cold meats prepared by its guv'nor, a former pork butcher. These include stuffed chine (a dish peculiar to the 'east' Midlands), cold crust pie, cured tongue, roast pork, etc. More or less self-service. Beer from Bateman's. Lunch and dinner every day. £15.

Immaculate confection

A group of nuns has cooked up a novel way of keeping the house in order

Sister Monica explains quietly: "It is so difficult to think of work for the contemplative nun to do. This suits our way of life, but unfortunately it involves alcohol."

Sister Monica is not in despair over an alarming increase in AA membership among her sisters. She is in fact talking about how the nuns of Our Lady of the Passion monastery near Daventry, in Northamptonshire, have found pecuniary salvation through combining alcohol with chocolate to create hand-made Belgian-style liqueur truffles.

Previously they were in the egg business. However, in October 1989 they barricaded themselves in their hen house when government vets arrived to slaughter some of their chickens after traces of salmonella had been discovered.

Later, in the High Court, the Ministry of Agriculture triumphed and the nuns were left with £2,000 compensation (still in dispute) and a pressing need to find another source of income.

"Making chocolate was compatible with our way of life," Sister Jane Anne says. "We also hoped it might attract young girls to come and join us."

Our Lady is the only house of Passionist nuns in Britain — first vow to promote the memory of Christ's Passion. It was set up in 1964 by a group of nuns from Kentucky, America. Now numbering just ten, their last novice joined five years ago.

The sisters learnt their chocolate-making from the Belgian relative of one of their number. "The most important skill is how to handle it. Chocolate can be so messy and temperamental," Sister Monica says.

Meanwhile, an old stable block was gutted, renovated and equipped at a total cost of around £90,000. Most of the money came from donations from various religious houses



Chocoholics: Sisters Jane Anne (left) and Monica with their home-made chocolates

Eventually, it was unanimously declared that their luxury chocolates tasted like mothsballs, and their four cows got an unexpected bonus of 90 kilos of truffles.

Ingredients, utensils and equipment were minutely inspected to discover the cause of the problem. "We were about to give up when the National Flooring Company offered to have a look," Sister Jane Anne says.

Market research was done in-house. The nuns experimented with the Belgian recipe, producing ten different varieties which all the sisters were asked to taste and grade.

"Everyone agreed on certain ones," says Sister Jane Anne, "and we chose the final recipes from that."

No amount of pandering to their Christian charity will draw the ingredients from them, other than that they are pure, fresh and free from artificial additives.

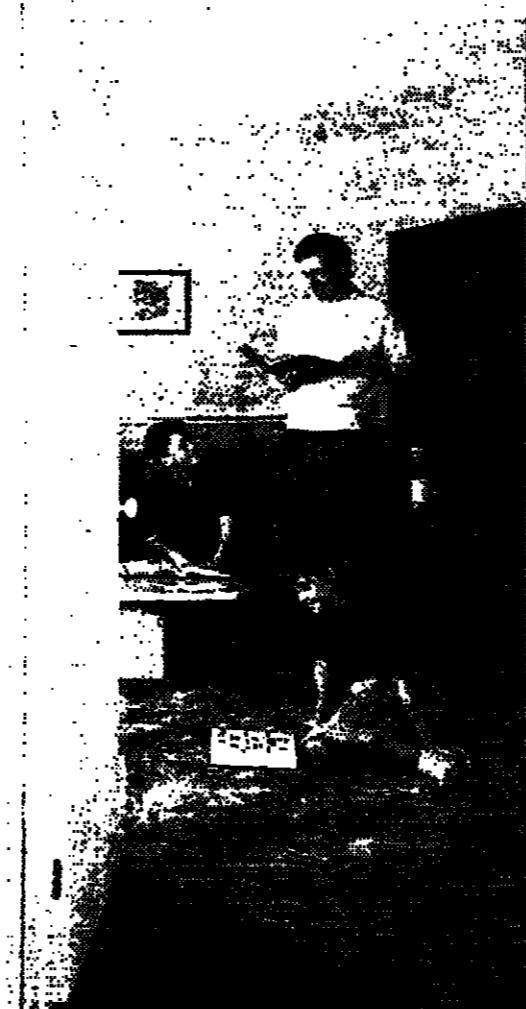
Production began in March 1990. "We took the first batch into the house," Sister Jane Anne says. "One nun said something was wrong with the chocolate; we said there was something wrong with her."

Over the next few days, however, others remarked on an odd flavour and two nuns developed sores on their lips.

The company's investigations revealed that damp-proofing laid down during the renovations was to blame. Chocolate is very susceptible to picking up odours — which meant the entire floor had to be relaid. It also meant 18 months of lost production and no income.

Did they consider that someone was trying to tell them something? "A lot of the nuns thought so," Sister Jane Anne admits. "We prayed a lot to see if this was His will. If we should be doing some-

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Junior takes to the ice

Lee Rodwell meets the well-padded future stars of British ice hockey

At 6pm on Fridays, netting is pulled round the perimeter of the Alexandra Palace ice rink in north London and about 50 padded and helmeted young players pick up their sticks and take to the ice.

Some are so tiny their shirts hang below their knees, giving the bizarre impression that they are just babies on skates.

The youngest child on the ice is five-year-old Jonathan Sherman who, with his six-year-old brother Benjamin, is among the regulars who come to weekly junior ice-hockey practice.

The boys are brought by their father, Eddie, who acts as a junior coach. He has no doubt about the value of the sport. "It's a great way to release a lot of physical tension and if you live in a big city, there's a lot of tension to release. English schools don't provide enough sport. Boys in particular have a lot of energy and this is a great way to burn it off," he says. "It's also a great way to acquire a sense of coordination — and confidence."

Although junior ice hockey has been played in Great Britain since the early 1980s, there has been a huge growth in the number of children taking up the sport over the last five years. The British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA) says:

In England there are three junior leagues (the under-12s, under-14s and under-16s), each with northern and southern divisions, so the scene at Alexandra Palace is repeated every week at ice rinks up and down the country.

The competitive season runs from September to March, but boys and girls practise all year.

Greg Vasick is the hockey manager at Skate Attack, a shop in Kentish Town, north London. "The youngest player I've ever kitted out was three. But we've had quite a few four and five-year-olds," he says. "The sport is definitely growing."

For matches each side has a squad of up to 22 players, although only six, including the goal tender, are allowed on the ice at any one time. The rest sit with their coach, who decides when to switch players. Since each player tends to be on the ice for only short bursts, the game is fast and furious from the first face-off. But is it dangerous?

Mike Sirant, BIHA's national director of coaching, is reassuring. "It looks like a rough game, but at the children's level it isn't. For instance, no body-checking is allowed in the under-12 group because of the discrepancies in size and weight that can occur at that age. The children also wear equipment that ensures they are well protected. And at this club the emphasis is on developing skills and having fun." Leading the under-12 northern league at present are the Telford Terror Hawks. Bernard Beech, the secretary of the Telford Junior Ice Hockey Club, says he cannot recall a member of the junior teams ever being taken to hospital.

"You may get the occasional twisted ankle, but that's all. The point about ice hockey is that investment in good equipment is good insurance."

The investment, however, can be substantial. Most of the equipment is imported from Canada and Finland, and Richard Owen says you need to be "reasonably well off" to be able to afford to kit your children out. Mr Owen lives in Wappenhurst, about 17 miles from the rink at Milton Keynes. His daughter Shelley, aged 13, is the assistant captain of the under-14 team, the Bantam Kings. His son Greg, aged ten, captains the under-12 Peewee Kings.

"You tend to buy the equipment in dribs and drabs," he says, "but they are probably each wearing £400-worth of kit when they are on the ice. Good skates, for instance, cost about £150."



Safety first: five-year-old players at Milton Keynes are kitted out in helmets and protective gear

Mr Beech agrees that the sport would be even more popular if it was less expensive. Some clubs run sales of second-hand kit — but parents have also got to find the price of ice time. "It costs us £29 an hour for the rink," Mr Beech says. "With 20 kids that's £1.50 an hour, and a training session may last two hours. Then you've got the travelling. It's not like soccer where you may be playing on pitches next door or only five miles away. We travel all over the northeast. Each time the bus costs us between £300 and £400."

In order to subsidise the teams the clubs sell advertising space in their match programmes. They also seek our sponsorship and hold fund-raising events, such as raffles and karaoke evenings. But parents still have to dig deep.

Those involved insist it is worth it. "You get rather emotional when you see your children out there on the ice," Mr Beech says. "It's very exciting. It gives you quite a buzz."

• To find out if there is a junior ice hockey club near you, contact your local ice rink or call the British Ice Hockey Association on 0202 303946.

WHAT KIT COSTS

Helmet: £31, face guard £25
Throat protector £9
Shoulder pads, elbow pads £26
Gloves £19, socks £8
Padded shorts £14-22
Leg guards £4-22
Shirt from £16
Skates £8, garters £8
Protective box (boys) £8
Protective garter (girls) £10
Kit bag from £50
Stick £9-50, gloves from £11-10
Prices supplied by Skate Attack, 1a Anglers Lane, NW5 071-485 0007

EVENTS

LONDON

□ Chinese workshop: In the new Year of the Monkey, activities for children aged five and over. *Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8. Mon-Thurs 10.45am-noon, 1-2.15pm. Details from Education Centre 071-603 4332 ext 283.*

□ Saturday cinema: *Summer of the Coli* tells the story of three children spending a summer vacation at their grandfather's ranch in Argentina and the special relationship of a young girl and a horse. *Chinello 1, Barbican Centre, Barbican London EC2 071-638 8891. Today 2.30pm. £3, child £2.50 plus £3 annual club membership.*

□ Puppet magic: *Mornings, The Funny Fun Show* — magic, balloons and Punch for over-threes. Afternoons the resident company's production of *The Prince and the Princess* — *London Marlowe Theatre, Deptford Passage, Cross Street, London SE1 071-226 1787. Today, tomorrow 11am and 3pm. Morning £4, child £3.50, afternoons £5, child £4.*

□ *Clowns' service*: 46th annual tribute to the father of clowns, Joseph Grimaldi. The service is conducted by the clown's own chaplain and rector, the Rev Roly Bain. *Holy Trinity Church, Beechwood Road, Dalston, London E8. Tomorrow, 3.45pm. Arrive early to be sure of good viewing.*

□ A Walk on the Wild Side: Literary tour of London looking at the haunts of fictional villains. *Meet at the Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 tomorrow 2.30pm. £5, child £3. Further information and booking on 081-806 4325.*

□ Steam nostalgia: *Numpty Castle, locomotive No. 5029*, normally based at the Didcot Railway Centre, makes the first of five mainline runs, from Paddington via Slough, Reading, Didcot and Swindon to Hereford and back. *Buffet service with hot and cold drinks on the train. Paddington Station, West London. Friday. Return fare £30. Further information and credit card booking through Flying Scotsman Services (0524 734220).*

NATIONWIDE

□ Arundel buzzes: Annual bee-keeping weekend — all about honey bees, from setting up a hive to handling the creatures, plus tastings of honey and making models from beeswax.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 833783). Today, tomorrow, 9.30am-5pm, last entry 4pm. £3.50, child £1.50.

□ Chichester cruises: If the weather is fine children should enjoy

this Sunday afternoon sail on an RSPB tour of Chichester harbour. *Itchenor, south of Chichester, West Sussex, on the A286 Wittering Road. Tomorrow. Boat sails 2.30pm. £3, child £1.50. Further information and availability check on 0243 786418.*

□ Crawley rock: Bruce Knapp, guitarist, Henry Thomas, bass player and Geoff Nichols, drummer — all from *The Rock School* television show — demonstrate and give advice on putting musical arrangements together. *Take your own instruments and amplifiers. The Hawth Studio, Hawth Avenue, Crawley, Sussex (0293 553636). Monday 7.30pm for 8pm. £1.*

□ Dursley dances: Workshop of dances from Brittany — open to all ages and abilities. *Prima Arts Centre, South Street, Uley, Dursley, Gloucestershire (0453 860703). Today 4-5pm. £5, student/child £4.*



Hands-on pleasure in Poole

□ Poole pots and paints: Weekly workshop for five to ten-year-olds with painting, pottery, paper mache, collage, needlework, weaving and singing. *Poole Arts Centre, Kingland Road, Poole, Dorset. Today and Saturdays until May 2, 11am-12.30pm. £2.25 per session. Booking and further information on 0202 685222.*

□ Windsor castle time: New exhibition marking the fortieth anniversary of Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. Six sections illustrate different aspects of the Queen's life, including her travels, dress, protocol and awards. *Royalty and Empire, Old Windsor and Eton Canal Railway Station, High Street, Windsor (0753 857837). Tuesday onwards, 9.30am-5pm. £3.50, child £1.50, child six-15 £2.45, under-5s free, family ticket £10.50.*

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Will you collect your sheep, or shall I wrap them for you?

I would like you to rest assured that I am taking great care with my lambing ewes this year. Whatever the weather I trudge to the yard last thing at night and if any of them look as though they might be breathing heavily or making a nest in the straw — sure signs of lambing — I sneak over, lift their tails and check. I hope that will reassure you that I am being sufficiently attentive to your flock.

Yes, yours. You may not know that, but it will not be long before they are your sheep: you, as taxpayers, are effectively buying them on hire-purchase. It is to do with the Brussels mandarins who have been metaphorically lifting all our tails in search of something in which they can meddle. The result has been a change in the way that grants are paid to farmers. Instead of giving a subsidy on the lambs we send to market

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

they now bung us a few quid for every ewe we own. It is the poll tax in reverse: you didn't have to do anything to be required to pay the poll tax, other than exist. And farmers don't have to do anything with their breeding ewes, except own them.

The subsidy is quite a hefty sum, between £5 and £10, and set to rise, which means that within five years you will have bought each of my ewes outright.

Of course, the government is being very careful with your money and does not fling it around. That is why a young official, in response to my application of last year, drove 40 miles to check on 19 sheep and drove 40 miles back to his office, no doubt to report to

his manager that he had bravely counted them all out and counted them all back in again. I wonder if it is my duty to warn the police that a dangerously drowsy government official, hypnotised by counting sheep all day, is meandering round the lanes? No wonder none of them can wake up to the fact that this is an indecent waste of their time and your money.

But there is worse. I notice from reading the form that invites me to apply for this year's subsidy that "losses of any sheep subject to the claim must be notified in writing within 10 days of the discovery of the loss". Not quarterly, you notice. Not even monthly, within ten days. Now, it has been said, and



ment ready to handle what can only be a massive mailbag of death notices?

There are 20 million sheep in Britain of which roughly 10 per cent will die naturally this year so two million grim little notes will have to be penned. Roughly 8,000 every working day.

But reading them is the government's problem; what worries me is what to write. It seems heartless simply to put "One ewe dead. Yours etc..."

But I haven't got time to write in great detail, much as I would want to give an honest and truthful picture of the events.

For example: "Sir, with a heavy heart I beg to inform you that while strolling the meadow this bright and sunny morn, my gaze fell upon a sight that cast a sombre cloud. Sir, I have found a dead ewe and I make no effort to hold back the tears that well in my eyes as I write. For she

was a fine sheep, sir, of noble breeding..."

And what, I wonder, will be the minister of agriculture's reply? I trust it will not be a skimpy little postcard, for such a glib response could only wound further.

No, I am afraid it behoves him to reply to each letter personally. With an election on the way and animal welfare so dear to the electoral heart, surely Mr Gummer will not miss an opportunity to offer his condolences?

Before I decide on which side to cast my vote I intend to question all parties and demand that a sample letter be included in their manifesto to prove their sensitivity.

In the meantime, as I am not inclined to get out the black-edged notepaper every time a sheep gets a headache, the sooner you have made the payments and my flock becomes yours the better. Will you collect, or shall I wrap them for you?

Guardian of all that we survey

Sandy Bisp meets Michael Dower who next month becomes head of the Countryside Commission

When Michael Dower takes up his appointment as the Countryside Commission's new director-general next month, his first thought is likely to be of the father he barely knew, whose name is emblazoned above the entrance to the Commission's headquarters.

John Dower House, in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, recalls the architect and town planner whose 1945 government report led to the creation of our national parks.

Since Michael Dower has spent seven years as the Peak District national park officer before, at 58, heading the Countryside Commission, his dedication to following in his father's footsteps is self-evident. But he soon tells you it is not as simple as that.

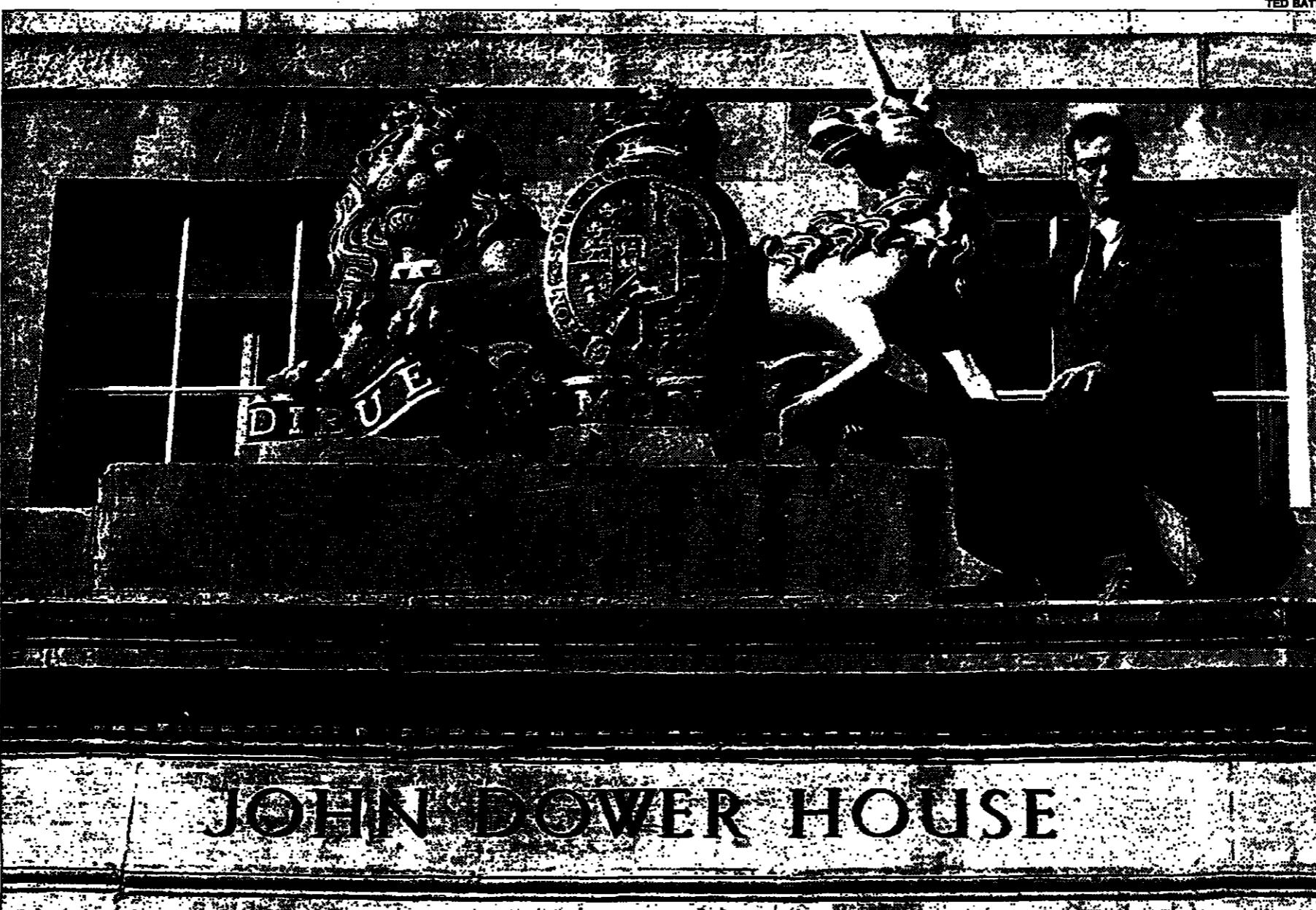
"Seven of us in our family have been involved in this game," he says. "My mother's father, Charles Trevelyan, was a passionate advocate of access who gave his estate in Northumberland to the National Trust. His brother, my great uncle, George Macaulay Trevelyan — the historian — was a wonderful describer in prose of the British countryside and a passionate campaigner for its protection.

Both were associated with the Youth Hostels and Ramblers' Associations and they helped to persuade my father, after he married my mother, to become involved with the embryo national parks movement. My father's brother, Arthur, was also national chairman of the Youth Hostels Association.

Then my mother inherited my father's work, becoming a member and vice-chairman of the National Parks Commission at the time the parks were set up.

The Countryside Commission's new incumbent has only one regret: "I wish my mother had lived to see my appointment. I've already lived 11 years longer than my father, who died at 47."

"I wasn't tremendously influenced by him. His tuberculosis



Rural views: Michael Dower perched outside the Countryside Commission's headquarters in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire — named after the father he hardly knew

meant he was infectious, therefore I was sent away to school fairly early. My mother was a strong-minded woman. She just assumed we were going to go on and do this... my brother and I.

"I had no doubts I was going to become a planner and a countryside manager. It is a tremendous family tradition. My brother Rob finished a nine-year term as a Countryside Commissioner last year."

Mention crisis in the countryside and Michael Dower looks

owlish, as if to say: "What crisis? Isn't there one, what with the exodus from the land of its traditional guardians, the farmers?"

"My view is not one of crisis so much as of opportunity, reflected by a variety of schemes whereby farmers can gain income through environmental management," he says. He adds that he feels strongly about balancing the Commission's two statutory purposes — to protect the landscape and provide access for recreation — with the

well-being of country dwellers. He insists that "the countryside is not just for the people who live there, but for the nation to enjoy".

In 1980 he founded Rural Voice, an alliance of ten national organisations representing rural communities in England and embracing landowners and Women's Institutes, churches and other groups... a family of nearly a million members.

For four years he was also president of Ecovast (European Council for the Villages and the

Small Town) protecting rural peoples' heritages in 25 European countries.

His team's proposals to rebuild Croatia's farming economy after the loss of rich agricultural land to Slovenia are more pertinent following the civil war.

But at home and hearth what kind of countryman is Michael Dower? "I'm a pantheist," he says. "I see God in everything and feel strange when nature is not directly present."

Two of his key interests are

landscape painting and dry-stone walling. "I like having my hands in nature and on it, observing exactly and seeking to create through it..."

"My present home on the edge of the small town of Bakewell, in Derbyshire, is on the floor of a limestone quarry. There's a mass of surplus stone. I've built retaining walls and steps up the cliff and a limestone roundhouse of Yugoslavian design as a summerhouse at the top." The countryside awaits his next designs.

Less peat, more moor

FEATHER REPORT



Moorland spook: the nightjar is like a twilight ghost hunting insects

February is with us, and the light of spring can be sighted, distantly, at the end of the tunnel. Time to think of growth; time to think of rebirth. The birder listens to the slowly rising clamour in the trees and hedges: the gardener plants seeds and considers the new campaign.

So does the conservationist despair? That's easy. All you have to do is to walk in a ruined rain forest, or walk by ruined raised mires. I know: I did both last year. In each case the devastation was complete a bare horror, the surface of the moon. A crime against life.

The rain forest was in southeast Asia. The raised mire was in Yorkshire, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is the backbone of conservation legislation in this country. But that hasn't stopped the destruction at Thorne and Hatfield Moors.

Bits of it are still lovely; still deeply spooky. These moors support important numbers of Britain's spookiest bird, the nightjar. This is the twilight ghost that hawks for insects like a giant swift on huge silent wings. Nightingale, teal, whinchat and twice as breed there.

But, of course, we are not talking about protecting a few species of birds. We are talking about a total environment, and that is a mountain of water. It stands, like a droplet on a table, held together not by surface tension but by some extraordinary stuff called sphagnum moss.

This is, perhaps, the strangest living community in Britain. The weird plants include sundew, Britain's carnivorous plant. The invertebrates include the monstrous raft spider. Three species of this insect are found in this country only on

of Gardening, 1951: "Coir was at one time extensively used in horticulture and was most useful... There is nothing that can quite take its place, a good peat being the nearest."

Well, coir is back on the market. Coir must be seen as the life-affirming growth medium for a gardener — a person whose fundamental concern is life. Peat is the stuff of destruction.

Some people will tell you there is a "controversy" about peat. They believe there is an argument about the damage peat extraction causes. There is not. Talk about lowland raised mire — the wonderland of the raft spider and the nightjar — and all the peat

producers have left us with is less than 3,000 acres that can be classified as undamaged bog.

The Peat Producers' Association has taken on a PR firm at £100,000 a year to state its case.

The firm's track record includes the launch of a peat-miner's code of practice which, it says, was approved by the Nature Conservancy Council. The NCC had not even seen it at the time.

This was all part of a complicated response to the Peatland Campaign. The peat producers would no doubt like to write off the opposition as adolescent scaremongers. But the campaign consortium includes the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust — hardly half-cock organisations.

To sight at the excesses of third world people destroying their natural resources is easy. But this country is doing the same thing.

I mentioned despair. If only there were time for such a thing!

Conservation's now-traditional antidote to despair is local action. And for once the first step for local action is easy. Don't buy peat.

SIMON BARNES

• The book Gardening Without Peat is available from Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ, at £5.45, including p+p.

• What's about Binters — good time of year to see woodpeckers actively feeding on bare branches? Twitchers — male pine bunting at Blakeney Point, Norfolk; dotterel in RSPB harbour, Sango. Details from Birdline, 0891 705222.

HULL

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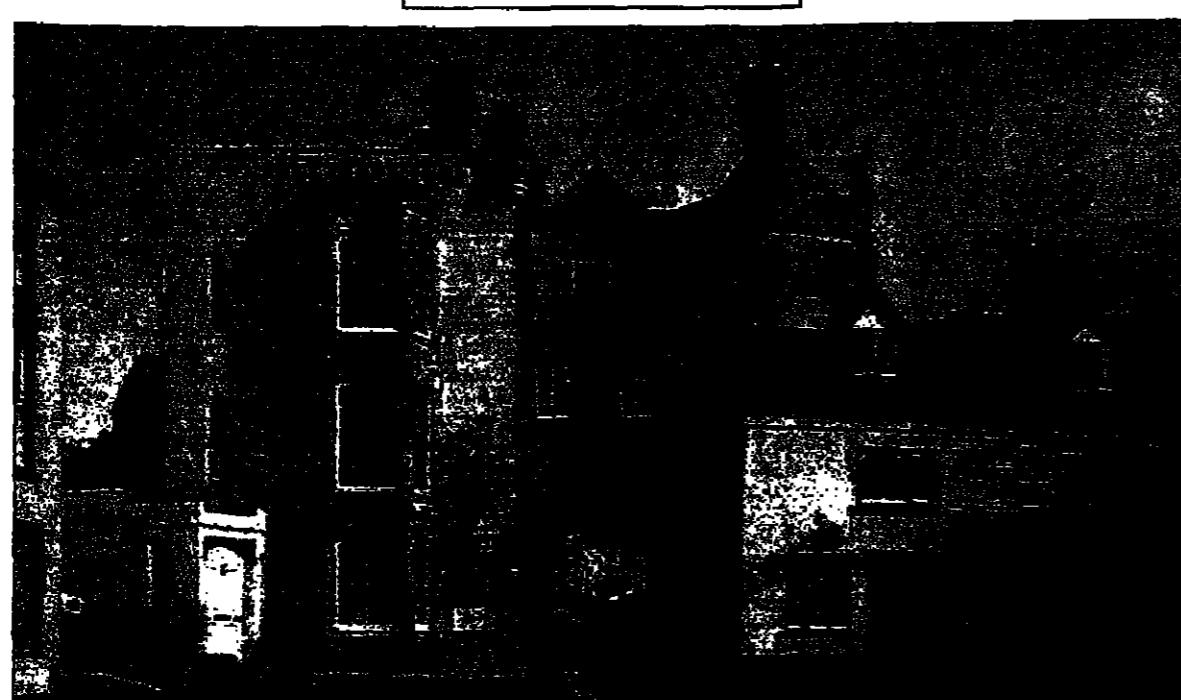
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HULL

WHERE TO WALK



Gateway to elegance: pass through Ludlow's Town Gate to discover one of the finest townscapes in England

Although Ludlow has its by-pass, the best time to walk its streets would be either very early on a summer Sunday morning, or late in the evening. The streets are frequently narrow, and country people "in town" linger on pavements in a way nobody would do in Regent Street. Ludlow is a hill town, and its "planted centre" is virtually unspoilt. Start on Ludford Bridge over the Teme, where the old main road from Hereford enters the southern part of the town. Climb Broad Street, passing under the last remaining town gate (there is a house built on its top), and the street opens up to reveal one of the finest townscapes in England.

The houses are Georgian, built when Ludlow was a fashionable winter resort for the gentry. As the road mounts, the houses become antique shops, cafés, the Raven Hotel and de Grey's, where stout farmers eat afternoon teas. At the top of the hill is the Butter Cross, the chimneys of which have long welcomed visitors to Ludlow.

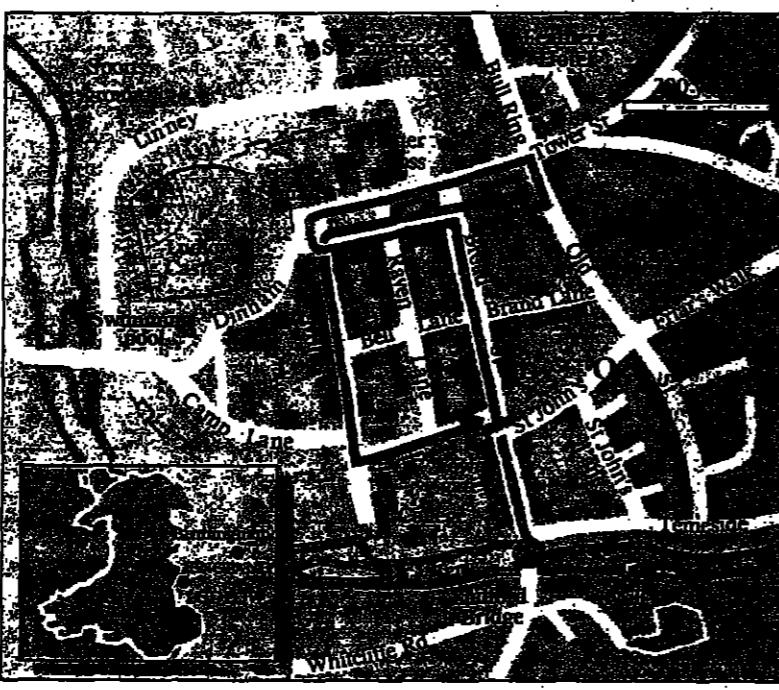
Turn left into a maze of medieval lanes, which have filled part of the space left in the 13th century for the market. Ludlow Castle is a huge ruin, once the home of the Council of the Marches of Wales. It contains a rare circular chapel and, from the summit of its battlements, marvellous views to the north and east.

Until five years or so ago the market square contained what Pevsner described as "Ludlow's only ugly building", a late Victorian town hall built in blue and red Midland brick. Suddenly a crack appeared in the fabric, and within a week the monstrosity was no more, a miracle that should have contributed to a local religious revival. Make your way to St Laurence's church, the largest parish church in the county, and

admire its interior, look under the choir seats for rude medieval carvings. The view from the churchyard (which contains a cherry tree in memory of Housman) looking north towards the Long Mynd and the Clee is stunning.

To the east of the churchyard is a lane running to the Reader's House, and a path beyond it leads into Corve Street and the Bull Ring, where the town's most famous hotel, The Feathers, is situated. It is a riot of black and white, with very fine panelling within; a hostelry much favoured by the kind of Americans who look like Cary Grant. Cut back westwards across the top of the town, descend Mill Street,

which is only slightly less favoured than Broad Street, and walk round the town walls back to the town gate. Then drive your car across the medieval bridge, take the first right and climb to a parking place on Whitchurch, the hill upon which more Ludlovers have been conceived than would readily be admitted, and whence there is the most stunning view of all the towers and red roofs of Ludlow, dominated by its castle, and cut off from the rude world by its encircling hills. My walk is designed for a first impression; in truth Ludlow is a place of nooks and crannies, suitable for exploration at one's leisure.



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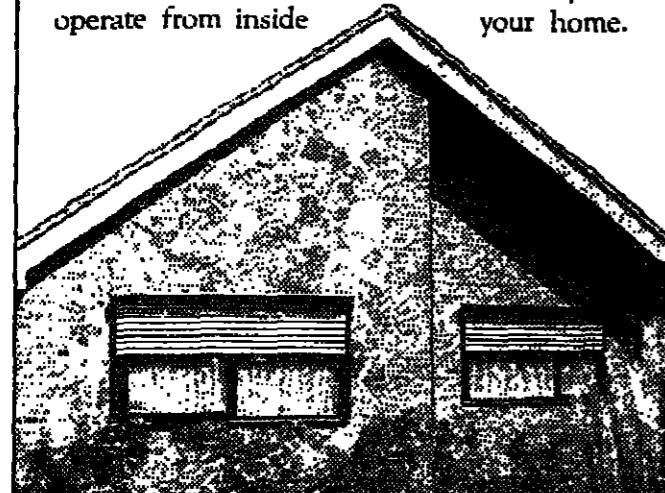
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POSTCODE

CORDULA



Guildhall in Much Wenlock "In valleys of springs of rivers": by the river Clun at Hinstock

Easy escapes from the me

Where to check in for a few days or all within an hour or so of the

The George Hotel
High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire OX10 7RH (0865 340404, fax 0865 341620)

Ancient coaching inn with black-and-white facade in showplace Thames-side village with famous abbey and many antique shops. Bedrooms with solid, old-fashioned furniture vary from large with four-poster to cosy under oak beams. Good, traditional cooking in cleverly converted barn with heavily beamed and raftered ceiling.

Breakfast £20-£29. Double £62.

Double £52. Two-night weekend package, dinner, B&B £95 per person.

The Stow Arms
Stow, nr Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 6HE (049 345, fax 089163 8863). Stephen and Anne Frost's restored 16th-century inn, 10 miles from Henley. Nine airy bedrooms in purpose-built wing. Imaginative cooking in formal dining room with conservatory extension; also



BEST OF BRITAIN

HOUSMAN'S SHROPSHIRE

Julian Critchley, the writer and MP, finds the first snowdrops in the poet's "blue remembered hills"

Housman's Shropshire has nothing whatsoever in common with Telford New Town, with its golf-playing Japs and immigrant Brummies, save that they share the same county. The poet's "land of lost content" lies south of the Severn, protected from the Black Country by the Clee Hills and 30 miles of inadequate roads.

Southwest Shropshire was the first part of England to be declared an area of outstanding natural beauty, and its charms, though legendary, are still unappreciated by the majority. It is a land of distant horizons, indented by the graceful profiles of "blue remembered hills", where the only danger springs from farmers' sons driving BMWs and the only noise is the hum of a distant tractor.

For Alfred Housman, born in Bromsgrove, over the border in Worcestershire, the Shropshire hills were the backdrop to an unsatisfactory childhood. He plucked place names from the gazetteer, and made the back of beyond famous.

A Shropshire Lad conjures up even today a picture of a vanished rural England, and provides a romantic backdrop against which the tragedy of life can be played out. Housman was determined to call his book of poems *Terence*, but was thankfully dissuaded by his publisher. The poems with their morbidity are vulnerable to pastiche, but *A Shropshire Lad* made Housman's reputation as an exquisite minor poet. And he put one of England's prettier counties on the map.

Who, unless they lived in what has always been a sparsely populated county, had ever heard of Wenlock, Clee and Clun, or even Ludlow, before the poems' publication in 1896? A generation of romantically inclined subalterns carried the book with them to France and the Kaiser's war, and it has never been out of print.

Or come you home of Monday
When Ludlow market hums
And Ludlow chimes are playing
"The conquering hero comes".

Exquisite: A.E. Housman

parish church of St Laurence's, under the shadow of Ludlow Tower. The May fair to which Housman's doomed lads were always striding is held every year on Mondays the market still bustles, and the chiming of the 18th-century Butter Cross still play "The conquering hero comes".

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My detailed directions will help you to get the fullest enjoyment from the trail. Start

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"Into my heart an air that

England. At your feet is the earth of the Corve Dale, Shropshire's richest farming land. Behind the dale the land rises to the dip slope of Wenlock Edge, beyond which are the peaks of the Shropshire Hills, the Long Mynd, the Superstones and the Welsh mountains. To the right is the Wrekin; to the left the Bridgewood and the Titter Clee. There will be nothing save for the noise of the and the cries of mountain birds. Drive on down the Corve Dale road. In Febr...

the banks of the lane before Tugford and Peaton are

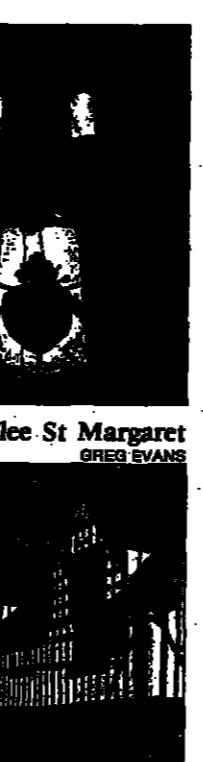
with snowdrops.

The Shropshire poor us go "whinberrying" in the Long Mynd every August.凡 would walk a ten-mile journey to spend the long picking the berries, taking tea with them and sandwiches of cold boiled bacon. Do we still go whinberrying? I do know. I have often climbed Long Mynd and spent a summer's day watching changing colours of the cou and reading, if not Housman's good book.

Wenlock Edge was umbred And bright was Abdon Bur And warm between them stumbered The smooth green miles of turf.

You will eventually come to the river Corve to way to join the Tern Ludlow, and then, after a right-angled bend in road, pass the Saxon church of Diddlebury. Turn left and view the expanse of Corve Dale from the churchyard walls.

Oh, I shall be stiff and cold When I forget you, hearts of gold; The land where I shall mine you not



Lamp at Clee St Margaret GREG EVANS



"In valleys of springs of rivers": by the river Clun at Hinstock

Easy escapes from the me

Where to check in for a few days or all within an hour or so of the

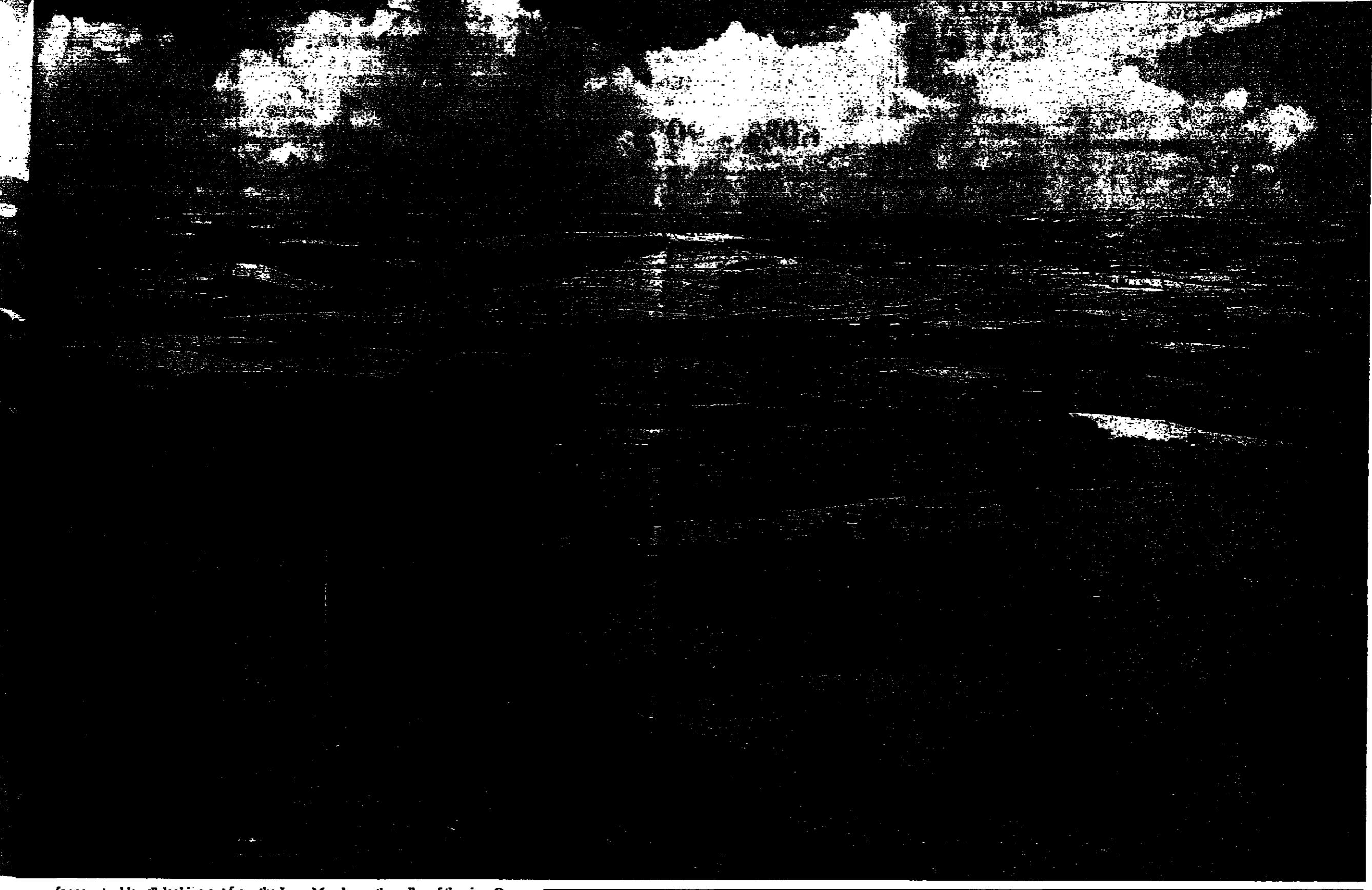
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"In yon far country blows": looking out from the Long Mynd over the valley of the river Onny

the land where all's forgot
and if my foot returns no
more

o Teme nor Corve nor
Severn shore,
uck, my lads, be with you
still
falling stream and
standing hill.

to through Diddlebury, and
ark right at the T-junction on to
ne main B4368. After about
wo miles, having passed
hrough the villages of Aston
Munslow and Munslow, watch
or a left-hand signpost to
hrewsbury. Take this narrow
an and you will find yourself
limbing to the brow of the
Penk Edge.

On Wenvoe Edge the wood's
in trouble;
His forest flees the Wrekin
heaves;
The gale, it plies the saplings
double.
And thick on Severn snow the
leaves.

The road drops down the scarp
of the Edge, wending its way
down Roman Bank. Follow the
road down to its junction with
he B4371 and turn right. The
oad climbs back up the ridge,
ong through the forest that
vers the Edge (in the Domes-
ay Book, the "Long Forest").
After three miles or so there is at
Prishore a very sharp back-
ard left turn which we take,
ading down to Hughey.

The vase on Hughey steeples
vers bright, a far-known
sign.

And there lie Hughey people
and there lie friends of mine.

The clock is also supposed to
tell the time to none", and the
church never had a steeple. Who
cares? Climb back up the Edge
and take a right towards Hope
Bowl and to Church Street
B4371. There are marvellous
views of the Caradoc "volcanic"
— the remnants of 700
million-year-old lava flows —

and the long hog's back of the
Long Mynd, blue in summer,
brown in winter.

Into my heart an air that
kills

From yon far country blows:

What are those blue
remembered hills,

What spires, what farms are
those?

A t Stretton turn left at
the traffic lights on the
A49 and travel south on this main
road until you reach Craven
Arms. Turn right on to the
B4368 to Clun, going through
Aston on Clun, and Clinton on
the way. The scenery becomes
wilder, more Welsh.

In valleys of springs of
rivers,

By Onny and Teme and Clun.

The country for easy rivers,

The quietest under the sun.

Clun is a funny one-eyed place
with a handsome church and
ruined castle. From
here the Housman trail turns
south down the A488, over wild
hill country with a view of
Corndon Hill to the north and
Caer Caradoc to the east (there
are two Caradocs in Shropshire)
until we reach Knighton, half in
England, half in Wales. Housman
gave it a sinister ring.

Tis a long way further than
Knighton.

A quiet place than Clun.

Where doomsday may thunder
and lighten

And little twill matter to one.

After Knighton turn left on the
A4113 and follow the Teme
back to Ludlow, via Leintwardine,
the Roman Bravonians.

The road climbs to the Fiddler's
Elbow, whence is found the most
spectacular view of all, the
elegant profile of the Titterstone
Clee, dominating the southern
end of the Corve Dale, and
standing guard over Ludlow.

The first glimpse of Ludlow is

of its red sandstone church
tower which, together with its
limestone castle, mark the
summit of what is a hill town,
cradled in a bend of the river
Teme, where the farmers' wives
sound like Clarrie Grundy and
the rich are buying up the
Georgian houses in Broad and
Mill Street.

The sunless tale of sorrow
Is all unrolled in vain;
May comes tomorrow
And Ludlow fair again.

The Housman Society is very
active in this county, and counts
Enoch Powell among its
patrons. It publishes a learned
journal and meets once a year in
May in Ludlow, when the
members and local dignitaries
process to the church for a short
service, pay tribute to the poet at
his graveside, and return to a
Ludlow hotel for a slap-up tea.

Sadly Housman never went to
Shropshire for his holidays,
preferring the charms of both
Venice and its gondoliers.

South Shropshire is a champa-
ign country, green and gold
where the detached hills are
high enough to be spectacular,
and the pace as slow as anyone
would wish. John Betjeman and
John Piper wrote and illustrated
one of the first *Shell Guides*
about the county, and the poet
could never seem to make his
mind up about Shropshire: the
red parts reminded him of
Devon, and the blue of parts of Wales.
It is a quiet land, long famed for
its sheep and its Tories. The
accent is English West Country
but with a Welsh tilt, and the
black puddings are as good as
any you will find in London.

The Housman trail will give
the traveller as pretty a slice of
England as he could wish for:

border castles, churches built
like fortresses, black and white
farms at the end of lanes, stone-
built cottages and, in spring, the
orchards in bloom.

★ WHERE TO STAY ★

THE Feathers (0584 875261), Ludlow's premier hotel, was built in the 16th century and has been sensibly modernised. Thanks to the town's bypass it is now quiet and very comfortable. The price of the rooms ranges from £104 a night for the Comus Suite (Milton's *Comus* was first performed at Ludlow Castle) or for a room with a four-poster bed, £62 for a single and £88 for a double — with 20th century beds. There are 40 rooms in all, and space for car parking.

The Angel Hotel in Broad Street (0584 872581) is comfortable and unpretentious. It has 17 rooms priced at £56 for a double and £38 for a single, including breakfast.

South Shropshire is B&B country, and there is hardly a farmhouse that will not

put you up. I stay twice a year with Rosemary and Alan Laurie at Church Bank Cottage, Burington (056886 426), some five miles from Ludlow across Bringewood forest towards Wigmore. Mr Laurie was a housemaster at Shrewsbury School. Their twin cottage is bookish, comfortable and entirely relaxed. An excellent four-course dinner costs £9.50, and bed and breakfast £12.50. The ducks and hens roam wild, the hamlet is silent save for a daily postal delivery van, and the cottage is overlooked by a pretty church with unusual iron tombstones. The Teme is a quarter of a mile away, and the Vale of Wigmore sublimely pretty. It's a shame Housman never wrote about it. If the Laurens are full they will recommend their daughter's establishment in Kington (0544 230176).

★ WHERE TO EAT ★

Exhausted pilgrims
should head for Poppies

(0584 72230), a
restaurant at Brimfield on the
A49 between Ludlow and
Leominster, found within a
pub called The Roebuck

which has just been voted
Egon Ronay Pub of the
Year 1992. Poppies is where
Carole Evans cooks like a
Queen. There is a newly-built
dining room of 40 covers,
three tables within the pub
and the best range of bar
snacks you will ever find. The
meat is local and well
hung, the vegetables home-

grown and the fish hails
from Cornwall.

Hotel food elsewhere is
undistinguished, although
Country Friends (0743
73707) at Dorridge, some
six miles from Shrewsbury,
was the 1991 *Good Food*
Guide's Country
Restaurant of the Year.

If you are looking for
something cheap and cheerful
Peter Garrell has opened
Garrett's in the Eagle House,
Corve Street, Ludlow
(0584 79355). Dinners
Thurs, Fri and Sat nights
only.

in streets of London

al restorative, yet
pital by car

formal bar restaurant. Friendly,
efficient staff. B&B double
£92.50, suite £137.50. Cooked
breakfast £5.50 extra. Half
board double £100 with bar
dinner. £120 with restaurant.

The Great House
Market Place, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9QZ (0787 247431)
a quintessential French restaurant with only four spacious bedrooms in centre of defensible (if touristy) quintessential English medieval market town. imaginative, beautifully presented meals by chef/manager Régis Crémé, served in oak-beamed, candle-lit dining room with inglenook fireplace. Charming service. Children

welcome. Restaurant closed
Sunday night and Monday.
B&B single £50, double £65.
Good value set menus: lunch
£12.50, dinner £13.95; also a la
carte meals, snack lunches.

Chilvester Hill House
Culver Wilshire SN11 0LP
(0249 813981, fax 814217)

Dr and Mrs Dilley's Victorian
stone mansion with large, airy
rooms, warm colours, books
everywhere. Not a hotel but a
private house with only three
bedrooms, to which paying
visitors are welcome. Communal,
no-choice dinners (menus discussed in advance);
good, plain home cooking. Ex-
cellent breakfasts at flexible
times. No children under 12
except by special arrangement.
No dogs. B&B double £60.
Dinner £18-£20.

HILARY RUBINSTEIN
Editor of *The Good Hotel Guide*
(Macmillan, £13.99)

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Doctor's dilemma

Even years ago, Dr Michael Barracough had a dream: that his fellow Docklanders in east London, who aspired to home ownership but balked at the developers' prices, would roll up their sleeves and build their own houses on derelict land.

The reality is Maconochies Wharf, 89 houses on the southern tip of the Isle of Dogs, one of many community self-build projects which thrived in inner cities during the 1980s.

Then came the recession, and Dr Barracough's plan for another 56 houses on a nearby site in the Royal Docks at Newham, has founders on the rock of building society finance.

"It's crazy," he says. "Now is the time to build, as land prices are down. So are material costs." In Docklands, for example, the cost of an acre has dropped from more than £1 million to £500,000. "In the 1980s we could not afford the land. Now we can, but we are not being allowed to borrow the money."

The Newham scheme was born four years ago out of the commitment of 30 people and their families who formed the Docklands Self-Build Housing Association.

The theory was that half the members would use their construction skills, the others would labour while they learnt. The association could employ its own architects, and extra builders if need be, thereby cutting the costs of building and the developer's profit.

The average cost of buying the land and building a reasonably sized family house for the Newham scheme, they calculated, would work out at less than £59,000. Similar new housing in Docklands costs twice that.

The plan was that the building costs would be met by a building society mortgage of £23,000, matched by a grant of £23,000 per house promised by the government-funded Housing Corporation, which was given £3 million for community self-build schemes in

Reluctant building societies are dashing the home-owning dreams of London's self-build champion. Rachel Kelly reports

March 1991 to support home ownership. So far, that grant is untouched, because the association has been unable to persuade the building societies to lend the £23,000 each self-builder needs.

"We've tried everyone," says Susan Happy, one of the would-be self-builders. "We even tried the Reichmann brothers [the developers of Canary Wharf] but they didn't reply to the letter. It is really very depressing. We've been waiting for four years."

Until the £23,000 can be raised, Mrs Happy will stay with her husband in their tiny council flat in Bethnal Green, and delay her plans to start a family.

The remaining £13,000, the cost of the land to be bought from the London Docklands Development Corporation, need not be found straight away, as the LDDC has agreed to defer 90 per cent of the land cost until completion.

Furthermore, the £59,000 cost of each house can be reduced still further with government subsidies. First, the LDDC is prepared to convert part of what might otherwise be an unaffordable land cost to the self-builders into an equity stake of equivalent value in the completed house.

Second, under the 1988 Housing Act, councils or housing associations can provide tenants wanting to buy a home, such as the Happy's, with a transferable grant. This could provide the couple with £10,000 to £15,000 towards their new home. It also frees a home which the council can give to a homeless family. But Tower Hamlets council has delayed giving such grants until the building societies have coughed up.

The building societies accept that in the past the incentive for individuals to build their own homes

resulted in lower prices than anywhere else in the market, but say that as prices fall they no longer believe the commitment among self-builders is there.

"We don't believe that the individual looking at the equation now really will have the confidence and commitment to see it through," says Richard Spelman, of the Halifax. "Commitment in the current market is far more tenuous."

Other building societies, such as the National and Provincial, had their fingers burnt when they became involved with self-styled "self-build consultants" in the 1980s. Dr Barracough says: "Unlike our community self-build schemes, with members in housing need who brief the architects so that the housing is designed individually for them as their future home, most self-build consultants simply enrolled anyone to build housing that had already been designed."

Instead of being genuine self-builders creating a home, those involved tended to want to cash in on the 1980s property boom. When that turned sour they walked off site, leaving the building society with derelict land and half-built houses.

The schemes that went wrong were all "consultant" ones where the people saw the scheme as a way of making an asset," Dr Barracough says. "But people kept on working on the community ones, where there was a high degree of identification with the homes."

The building societies' fence-sitting is heartbreaking for self-builders up and down the country awaiting finance, he says. As the societies fiddle, the price of land may start going up again, making the schemes once more out of reach.

Dr Barracough's attraction to

self-build was nourished in India, where he was born and lived until the age of 14 when he came to England. "In the third world there is no housing problem," he says. "Primitive man always houses himself; there is no social structure to housing. And the third world is on our doorstep in Docklands. But we have emasculated people, removed areas of self-determination like housing. We need to free them."

When Dr Barracough moved to the Isle of Dogs in 1977, he built his own house looking out across the Thames to the naval college at Greenwich. Now he has given up his job as a consultant physician at St Thomas's hospital to concentrate full-time on the tribulations of community self-build and other inner-city projects.

He could be accused of idealism — after all, how many people are really prepared to pick up the challenge of building their own house? "Listen," he says. "Self-build helps the 15 per cent who want to build for themselves. It will never be everybody; 85 per cent won't be able to help themselves, or willing to. But for those who do, it's the most cost effective way — and many people's only chance."

The fundamental problem with modern housing is that few of us have any involvement in design, says Dr Barracough, who built his white wood and brick home, reminiscent of a tall ship in full sail, in keeping with its river setting.

Others are less lucky, he says. "The middle class and affluent can retreat into what is old or pretty, but the working classes have traditionally had to take what is given to them. And it isn't very pleasant. I feel passionately about this."

Tommy Taylor, a 59-year-old self-builder, one of the lucky ones who completed his home at Maconochies Wharf three years ago, says: "Other than get married and having kids this is the finest thing a man can ever do, to build his own house. I don't mind how much my house is worth. I couldn't move away."



Builder extraordinaire: Tommy Taylor outside the home he built himself in Maconochies Wharf

Home from home: Lady Elizabeth Anson at Shugborough

Living up to the family inheritance



Childhood memories: Lady Elizabeth Anson grew up at Shugborough, the Lichfield family seat

Lady Elizabeth Anson's second home was also her first. She and her brother Patrick, now Lord Lichfield, were brought up at Shugborough in Staffordshire, the Anson family home.

Following her parents' separation and divorce she and Patrick divided their time between their mother and father, staying when in Staffordshire in the big house, until their father renovated a farmhouse on the estate for them. She kept house for him until his death, when she was 15. Five years later she and her brother moved back into the big house. "The continuity in my life has always been my brother," Lady Elizabeth says. "He's probably the most important person to me in the world."

Running Shugborough — light and elegant, with pretty pavilions and colonnades added by James "Athenian" Stuart and Samuel Wyatt — was "an enormous challenge".

She remembers her step-grandmother saying at the time: "You can't move back — you can't possibly afford the dailies." Instead, Mrs Fox from the village came in to help. "She nannied us along and kept us going with cottage pies, steak and kidney puddings and marvellous tarte tatin. When we had people to stay for the weekend — eight wasn't an unusual number — I'd rush back from London and do the main courses," she says.

By then Lady Elizabeth had started a business organising parties and dinners in London, the origin of Party Planners. The company she runs today.

"In those days it was cheaper to have meat sent down from Scotland at 5lb for £1, plus 2s 6d postage, than to buy it in England."

The Verandah Room itself is now open to the public. "It used to have at least five writing tables in it," she says. "All the uncles and aunts used to write letters there, something no one does any more."

Although Lady Elizabeth claims not to have been terribly practical when she was 20, she insisted that the Trust build steps down to the lawn, "so that someone could wheel a pram outside".

The Trust's acquisition of Shugborough was not, she says, "a huge change. We hadn't gone in through the grand portico since the war, for example."

"To begin with, though, I'd get paranoid hearing people scrabble about on the gravel all day long, and I'd go to doors that no longer led anywhere," she says. "My grandfather couldn't have coped. If he saw anyone in the grounds he'd practically have them shot."

The flower garden was dug for victory during the war after which it was maintained as a vegetable plot. "We were allowed down for lunch on Sundays and tea every day. My grandfather had a small safe in which he kept not jewels but beetroot. If we ate all our sandwiches we were allowed a radish and a piece of beetroot from grandfather's safe."

Lady Elizabeth returns to Shugborough "all the holidays and weekends, if I'm not working". She has recently opened a new office, Party Planners Plus, in Wilmslow, Cheshire, to deal with the North, Scotland, and the Midlands. "As Shugborough's en route I shall be coming here more and more."

Although she has now given up shooting, which she learnt at 11, Lady Elizabeth still enjoys long walks and picnics "no matter how freezing it is".

The garden remains largely as it was when she was a child, a blend of formal grass terraces and long herbaceous borders, with temples and pavilions in both the garden and the wilder areas of the 18th-century park.

The park has the biggest yew tree in England. We had a hidey-hole in there that nobody could find," she says. "It has subsequently become a hiding place for my nephew and nieces and my daughter Fiona and my wonderful stepsons, Josh and Nicholas."

The boys are now grown up, but Fiona, 18, returns regularly in the school holidays. "I shall always remember my nephew Thomas, when he was ten, saying very seriously to Fiona: 'I want you to know through all your life this will always be your home.' And it always has."

The boys are now grown up, but Fiona, 18, returns regularly in the school holidays. "I shall always remember my nephew Thomas, when he was ten, saying very seriously to Fiona: 'I want you to know through all your life this will always be your home.' And it always has."

ELuned Price

Buyers' France

THE CREUSE

Fresh fields with sport at its heart

For just £12,100 (including agency fees), you can buy this little terrace house in the small town of Chambon-sur-Voueize, between Montlouis and Gueret, in the northeast of the Creuse. The area can be reached in about five or six hours by car from Calais, or three and a half hours from Orly airport, south of Paris.

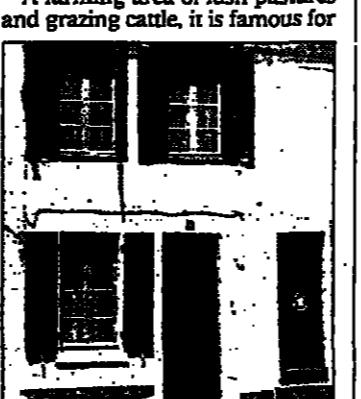
The old stone-built house has been restored, with a new roof and a modern, fitted bathroom, and is ready to move into. It has a kitchen/living-room and a small bedroom on the ground floor, with a large bedroom upstairs that could be turned into two rooms. In addition there is a cellar, store-room and an attic.

Although the property does not have a garden, there is a cobbled area with a bench in front of the house and a very pretty river with a large grass bank only yards away.

The British agent is Barbers, 427-429 North End Road, Fulham, London SW6 (071-381 0112).

The rolling countryside of the Creuse, a little-known department in the Limousin region of central France, is wet, wooded and unspoilt. It remains largely undiscovered by the British and property prices are low.

A farming area of lush pastures and grazing cattle, it is famous for



A village house at £12,100

its succulent beef, and sweet dishes made from the wild cherries that grow in abundance.

There is good fishing and riding, several large lakes for windsurfing and waterskiing, and forests of beech, chestnut and oak, where deer and wild boar roam.

On the cultural side there is Aubusson, a medieval town that for more than 500 years has produced the finest tapestries in France; and Limoges, the porcelain centre, with its museums and art galleries.

The area has a good supply of unconverted country cottages, farm buildings and village houses — £40,000 is the top price, and there are plenty for under £15,000.

CHERYL TAYLOR

What's in a name?

Calling your home

The Old Manor House could be a good selling point

Houses with names rather than numbers have more sentimental value. Would Rose Cottage by any other name sell so fast? "The late Roy Brooks always added £5,000 for a named house," Tony Halstead, of the now defunct Roy Brooks estate agents, confides. "I must say it's still the case."

Agents agree that the most desirable name in Britain is The Old Manor House, with The Old Rectory a close second. "It goes with the snob value of pillars and a long drive," Henry Prior of Strutt and Parker says.

Recently Norfolk agent Robin Stiegles was astonished at the rush to buy an ordinary three-bedroom house called The Manor House. But only Americans are impressed by The White House in the Home Counties, especially, white houses are common.

Individual time-honoured names are part of the property. You buy a place in history as well as a place to live. Clinkers, a 16th-century cottage in Jane Austen's village of Chawton, Hampshire, was the blacksmith's headquarters, called after the trade that was also the occupants' surname. Now it's for sale through Hamptons the owner, Sue Aiken, says: "The name is so unusual, it definitely draws buyers."

Idiosyncratic local names boost interest. Among the most exclusive are the cottages in Winchelsea, East Sussex, where the word for a plot of land is "plot". Each owner knows who originally occupied the house — Ballader's Plot, for instance, was the ballad-singer's home.

Do not assume, however, that a house name is part of the fixtures and fittings. When they bought Church Farm, Basil and Adie Towers were astonished when the sellers announced they were taking the name for their new house.

By charm and persuasion Mr and Mrs Towers kept the name. But who was legally right? Nobody, according to Ruth Barnes, a partner at conveyancing specialists Hardwick & Co. "Buyers or sellers have no firm rights to a name — it's all down to agreement in the contract," she says.

You can always invent a name to attract more buyers to your home, but check with the Post Office that your neighbour has not also chosen Honeyesuckle Cottage, or the postman will get confused.

On the cultural side there is Hampton Court, the home of the Queen, and Hampton Court, the home of the Queen.

Ms Barnes also suggests registering your house name with the Land Registry, which may even provide a historical clue to inspire you. If your house was built on old farmland, it could be called Ploughman's Cottage, for instance.

It is possible, however, that a new era has dawned. Property Holdings is now so ashamed of the state of the building that it tried to stop The Times taking a photo-



Regal home: Catherine of Aragon in Dogmersfield, Hampshire

there in 1501, before her marriage to her elder brother, Prince Arthur. However entrancing, unusual names can cause problems. I once fell in love with a houseboat because of its Wind in the Willows address: Toad in the Hole, Ivy

JANE FURNIVAL

Heap of the week: Teddington Hall

Faded glory



Neglect: successive governments have allowed the hall to decay

TEDDINGTON Hall is the haunted mansion of a hundred children's stories. Standing empty, in a neglected garden, sequestered by overgrown shrubs and tall conifers, it is only a few dozen yards behind the pavement of Hampton Road, one of the main thoroughfares in the west London suburb of Teddington.

Teddington Hall would have happily divided into flats had it not been swallowed up in the vast precincts of the National Physical Laboratory on the edge of Bushy Park. And when the house became surplus to a name — it's all down to agreement in the contract," she says.

You can always invent a name to attract more buyers to your home, but check with the Post Office that your neighbour has not also chosen Honeyesuckle Cottage, or the postman will get confused.

On the cultural side there is Hampton Court, the home of the Queen, and Hampton Court, the home of the Queen.

The President House, built in 1863 for John Cornelius Park, was originally named Gothic Hall, but in 1870 Mr Faithfull Cookson, an ironmaster and merchant from Chester, took over and renamed it Teddington Hall.

Teddington is not yet officially on the market but anyone interested should contact Stephen Collins of Rogers Chapman (081-759 4141).

MARCUS BINNEY

Take your partner on holiday – free

Where in the world would you like to go on holiday? Europe, Asia, America, Australia? Fiji or Brazil, perhaps? And would you like to take a partner along – free?

Today *The Times* is offering a choice of first-class hotels throughout the world where you can stay with a friend, whose flights and hotel accommodation are gratis.

All you have to do is to get that free place is to collect our six Fly Free – Stay Free tokens.

The first token is printed below. Cut it out and save it now. Then, from Monday to Saturday next week, *The Times* will print a further six tokens for you to collect.

Also on Saturday, February 8, we will print the full booking information, together with a price list for each hotel and the insurance details.

Want to make it a family holiday? No problem. Just collect six of the seven tokens and one adult member will go free.

The saving you will make on worldwide travel with this *Times* offer could be huge. For example, the quoted Aper return air fare London-Hawaii is £515 alone. Now add on the daily room rate at the Regent Honolulu hotel, which costs £125 per day. The total cost per person for a seven-day holiday there, including flights, would be £1,394.90.

Or, you may choose somewhere closer to home. Spain for example. The saving on flights and a seven-day stay at, say, the Barceló in Madrid would be £336.98.

Whatever you do in the coming



Collect a Times token every day

week, however, collect these six tokens: they will get one of your family almost anywhere – free.

LISTED here are the countries and hotels taking part in this offer organised by *The Times* in association with Flexibreaks International (UK). (The figure in brackets denotes the minimum number of nights stay).

EUROPE

Austria: Sheraton Salzburg (2)

Belgium: Sheraton Brussels Hotel & Towers, and the Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel (2)

Denmark: Sheraton Chagen (2)

France: Concorde Hôtel Ambassador, Concorde Hôtel Lafayette, Concorde Hôtel Lutetia – all in Paris (2)

Germany: Sheraton Frankfurt and Sheraton Munich (2)

Italy: Sheraton Firenze and Sheraton Roma (3)

Portugal: Sheraton Lisboa and Sheraton Porto (2)

Scotland: Sheraton Edinburgh (2)

Spain: Hotel Barajas, Hotel Habsburg, Hotel Mindanoso, Eurobuilding – all in Madrid (3)

Sweden: Sheraton Stockholm (3)

Switzerland: Sheraton Atlantis Hotel, Zurich (2)

The Netherlands: Ramada Renaissance, Golden Tulip Ramada and SAS Royal – all in Amsterdam (2)

Turkey: Sheraton Istanbul Hotel & Towers (2)

NORTH AFRICA

Egypt: Cairo Sheraton Hotel, Towers & Casino (10)

Morocco: Sheraton Casablanca (3)

Tunisia: Sheraton Hammamet (14)

MIDDLE EAST

Israel: Sheraton Jerusalem Plaza (4)

ASIA

China: Sheraton Xian (14)

Hong Kong: Sheraton Hong Kong, Kowloon (7)

Indonesia: Shangri La Dynasty, Bali (14)

Singapore: Sheraton Towers (7)

Thailand: Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok (10)

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Sheraton Sydney Airport Hotel, Kings Cross, Century

RADISSON AND MANLY RADISSON

Kestrel (14)

Port Douglas: Sheraton Mirage (14)

Fiji

Nadi: Sheraton Fiji Resort (14)

MEXICO

Acapulco: Sheraton Acapulco Resort (14)

CANADA

Toronto: Sheraton Centre (7)

UNITED STATES

Los Angeles: The Park, Beverly Hills and Sheraton Universal (7)

Anaheim: Anaheim Hilton (7)

San Diego: Sheraton Harbor Island, Sheraton Grand on Harbor Island and Sheraton Grande Torrey Pines (7)

San Francisco: Sheraton Palace and Mark Hopkins hotels (7)

New York: Sheraton New York and Sheraton Park Avenue (5)

Washington DC: The Carlton (7)

HAWAII

Honolulu: Hawaiian Regent (7)

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BBC 1

6.35 Open University (7219975): Introduction to Economics 6.55
Weekend Outlook 7.00 Pure Maths: Maps
7.25 News and weather (862642)
7.30 Crystal Tipps and Allstar, Cartoon (r) (1202468) 7.35 Wiz Bang (s) (3181555) 7.45 The Jetsons, Space-age cartoon (r) (2203130)
8.05 Eggs 'n' Baker, Cheryl Baker's music and cooking series. This week's edition has an Italian theme. (s) (8133655) 8.35 Thunderscarts, Cartoon adventures (r) (6709710)
9.00 Going Live! Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene are joined by Noel Edmonds. (s) (9350230) 12.12 Weather (8114517)
12.15 Grandstand, introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20, 12.40, 1.40 and 2.15 Rugby Union: live coverage of the international from Twickenham between England and Ireland, kick-off at 2.30pm. Plus highlights at 4pm of Wales v France at Cardiff. Wales: 2.15 Rugby Union: Wales v France, live, 12.25, 12.55 and 1.25 Racing from Cheltenham (12.30) Johnsy Estates Handicap Chase. (1.00) Philip Morris Saddle of Gold Hurdle Final: (1.30) John Hughes Grand National Trial; 12.50 News: 1.10 Cricket: highlights of the third day of the second Test between New Zealand and England from Auckland; 1.50 Hockey: commentary from Crystal Palace on the Royal Bank of Scotland National Indoor Club Championship. 4.35 Final Score (8842062)
5.10 News and weather (7081284) 5.20 Regional news and sport (3189284); Wales: Wales on Saturday
5.25 Stay Tuned! Cartoon favourites (2502772)
5.50 Noel's House Party. Resistible fun with Noel Edmonds, plus Derek and Ellen Jameson, Kathy Staff and the cast of *Allo Allo*. Dennis Taylor adds a *Gotcha* Oscar to his trophy collection. (s) (481352)
6.40 Big Break. Host Jim Davidson is joined by snooker players Joe Johnson, Ray Reardon and Terry Griffiths for another round of the green baize game show. (Ceefax) (s) (6060401)



Now you see it, now you don't...: Paul Daniels (7.10pm)
7.10 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. The chirpy magician is supported by Mike Michaels from Las Vegas and the death-defying Pantaleonko from Russia. (Ceefax) (s) (633994)
7.55 Moon and Son: The Horrors of Capricorn. Languid astrological thriller series starring Michael Martin and John Michie as a mother and son detective team. (Ceefax) (s) (460449)
8.35 News and Sport with Marilyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Weather (703420)
9.10 This Little Esther. Rantzen and team mix jokes with business in the children's affairs magazine. (Ceefax) (s) (949888)
9.50 Midnight Caller. Alan Titchmarsh as a British, sophisticated American drama series about a late-night radio talk show host, Jack (Gary Cole) asks his pregnant boss to marry him (s) (594130)
10.40 Film: Flashpoint. (1984). Thriller reworking the mystery surrounding the perennial question of who shot John F. Kennedy. Two Texas border patrolmen unearth a buried jeep containing a skeleton, a high-powered rifle and thousands of dollars in 1963 bills. Starring Kris Kristofferson and Treat Williams. Directed by William Tannen. (Ceefax) (7439456)
12.10am Film: Blood Beach (1981). Absurd chiller about southern California beach-goers who are terrorised by a subterranean monster. Starring John Saxon and Mariana Hill. Directed by Jeffrey Bloom (6082277) 1.35 Weather (2086208)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video recorders. Tap in the VideoPlus+ for the programme you want to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 081-12121212 (24hr charge); 45p per minute peak; 35p off-peak) or 0800-100000 (77 Full programme feed, 24hr charge); 45p per minute peak; 35p off-peak). PlusCode (s) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
• Via the Astra and Mercopolo satellites.
6.00 Breakfast Day (48923) 6.30 What a Country (22029) 7.00 Fun Factory (4542394)
11.00 Transformix (70529) 11.30 Star Trek (50601) 12.00 Beyond 2000 (67628) 1.00pm Coronation Street (32025) 1.30 The Weather (70529) 3.00 Monkey (5957) 4.00 Iron Horse (7343) 6.00 Robin of Sherwood (89710) 7.00 T.J. Hooker (82197) 8.00 Lifesaver Mythes (14078) 8.30 The Weather (5957) 9.00 Star Crossed (5957) 10.00 American Wrestling (37469) 11.00 The Rockies (49823) 12.00 Benny Hill (7134)

SKY NEWS
• Via the Astra and Mercopolo satellites. News on the hour.
6.00 Sunrise 6.30 Nightline (72517) 10.00 Dayline (14178) 10.30 The World (33130) 11.00 Dayline (14178) 11.30 Newsbeat (51130) 12.30 This Week (51130)

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Fly supersonic on Concorde to Toronto and stay five nights at the deluxe Sheraton. Dine overlooking Niagara Falls, at the CN Tower and at Harbour Castle Hotel. Enjoy the city tour and the harbour yacht cruise. View the spectacular falls on the helicopter excursion. See Phantom of the Opera. Departures are on 16 April (Easter), 28 June, 13, 20, 28 August, 17, 25 September and 3 October. The inclusive price is £1,999 with the 747 return.

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Cruise for seven nights on Queen Elizabeth 2 to the Norwegian Fjords. Depart from Southampton on 10 July. The ports of call will be Trondheim, Helleysvæl, Geiranger, Stavanger and Oslo. Return from Copenhagen on Concorde. The inclusive price is £1,999.

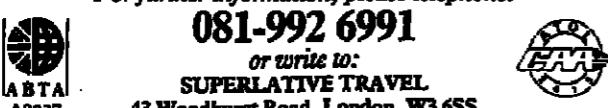
Alternatively, cruise for five nights on the QE2 from Southampton to New York. The coach tour includes visits to Philadelphia, Washington, Corning and Niagara Falls before your Concorde return from Toronto. Departures are on 8 May, 14 June, 29 July, 9 and 24 September. The fifteen day holiday costs £2,999.

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BBC 2

6.40 Open University (28130): Information Technology — Light Fantastic 7.05 Link Mechanisms 7.30 From Snowdon to the Sea 7.55 Exams — A Curious Kind of Ritual 8.20 Constable — The Leaping Horse 8.45 Living with Technology 9.10 Children's Drawings 9.35 Gravity and the Stars 10.00 Panel Painting 10.25 An Introduction to Psychology — Two Research Styles 10.50 Data Modelling — The Wood from the Trees 11.15 Business — Coming Good 11.40 The Changing Experience of Education 12.30 Technology — Facts are Not Enough 12.55 Insect Diversity 1.20 What was Modernism? 1.45 Social Science — Regions Apart? 2.35 Managing Schools 3.00 Mahabharat. In Hindu with English subtitles (3711889)
3.00 To Kill a Mockingbird (1962, b/w)
• CHOICE: Given traditional white American attitudes towards black citizens, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was a courageous film for Hollywood to have made in 1962, even if it did set the action back 30 years. At any rate it is a valuable guide to liberal attitudes in the early part of a decade that saw the climax of the civil rights movement in Alabama, heart of the conservative deep south. Lawyer Gregory Peck goes against local opposition to defend a black man (Brock Peters) accused of raping a white girl. The long courtroom scene at the heart of the story is, curiously, one of the film's weaker points. Its quality lies in counterpointing the main plot with a parallel tale of Peck and his two young children which similarly explores the theme of irrational prejudice. It is a film, too, of atmosphere, conveyed in Russell Harlan's striking monochrome photography and Robert Mulligan's sympathetic direction (5632152).

5.45 Late Again. Weekly highlights of *The Late Show* (s) (468401)
5.50 News and Sport with Chris Lowe. Weather (533420)
6.45 Tortoise: Masterclass: Elgar's Cello Concerto. Paul Tortelier coaches two young musicians (r) (511449)
7.30 The Cat Abreast Positive
• CHOICE: There has been so much, and rightly, on television about HIV and Aids that another 90 minutes on the subject might easily be regarded as a waste of cigar juice. By using the simplest of formats, a series of interviews with cameras. *The Cat Abreast*, the American documentary maker, has managed to find a fresh slant. Having himself been tested HIV positive, Adair wanted to explore the lives of Americans who are infected with HIV but do not have Aids. His subjects are 11 men and women, aged between 17 and 60. Five are gay men, others have been drug users. One was the victim of a transfusion with contaminated blood. With utter frankness, a few tears and a striking amount of courage they tell what it was like to handle the news, how living with HIV has affected their lives and their fears about getting Aids. *Positive* is the first in a series of feature-length documentaries made by independent directors (16468).



Living with HIV: Marjorie and Delmar Middleton (7.30pm)
9.00 Moving Pictures with Howard Schuman. Skip Lewsay talks about "designing sound" for the films *Cape Fear*, *Metewa* and *Baron Munchausen* and there is a profile of the Babelsberg studio in Berlin which produced such films as *Metropolis*, *Blue Angel* and *Baron Munchausen* (768304)
9.50 Film: Baron Munchausen (1987). Compelling drama about a West Virginia miners' strike in the 1920s. Chris Cooper stars as a travelling union organiser, with Mary McDonnell. Directed by John Sayles (5025686)
12.00 Film: Baron Munchausen (1943). A comedy of the glorified Berger's novel, ordered by the Nazi regime to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the UFA production company. It is a study of mainly historical interest, though the special effects are still potent. Hans Albers stars as the 18th-century baron, whose outrageous escapades are a figment of his vivid imagination. Directed by Josef von Sternberg. With English subtitles (5632155). Ends at 1.55am.

4.00 Limit Up (1989): Comedy about a man who makes a pact with the Devil (David (5082035)
5.40 Entertainment Tonight (71028) 6.00 The American Cup (50791) 6.30 Entertainment Tonight (71028) 6.30 Newsbeat Weekend (71028) 7.30 Fashion TV (41017) 8.30 Royal Wedding Destinations (70529) 9.00 The Weather (70529) 9.30 The Weather (70529) 10.00 Festival TV (20013) 12.30 Weather (50791)
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